

Returning home information



Central Okanagan
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Staying Informed

Where can I find more information?

Central Okanagan Emergency Operation Centre website: coemergency.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/coemergencymanagement and X (Twitter) [@CO_Emerg](https://twitter.com/CO_Emerg)

Regional District of Central Okanagan website: rdco.com/returninghome

Facebook: facebook.com/regionaldistrict and YouTube: youtube.com/regionaldistrict

BC Wildfire Service website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

Key Contacts

- AIM Roads (Ministry of Transportation and Highways contractor) call 1-866-222-4204 for after hours and emergencies
- Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team (ALERT) call 250-809-7152
- BC 1 Call (for underground services) website: bc1c.ca or call 1-800-474-6886
- BC Conservation Office call 1-877-952-7277
- BC Crisis Line / Mental Health Support call 310-6789 (no area code needed)
- BC Hydro call 1-800-BCHYDRO (1-800-224-9376)
- BCSPCA website <https://spca.bc.ca> call 1-855-622-7722
- BC Wildfire website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>
- Drive BC website: drivebc.ca
- Insurance Bureau of Canada website: ibc.ca or email askIBCwest@ibc.ca call 1-844-227-5422
- ICBC website <https://icbc.com> call 1-800-950-1498
- Ministry of Transportation and Highways call 250-712-3660 (general inquiries)
- RCMP (non-emergency line): West Kelowna RCMP Detachment (250-768-2880); Armstrong RCMP Detachment (250) 250-546-3028 (North of La Casa)
- RDCO website: rdco.com/returninghome email: info@rdco.com
- Canadian Red Cross website: redcross.ca
- Rogers/Shaw toll-free: call 1-888-472-2222 or website: rogers.com or shaw.ca
- TELUS Mobility: *611 on TELUS mobile phone or call 1-866-558-2273
- TELUS Internet: Toll-free call 1-888-811-2323 or website: telus.com
- La Casa Resort: 1-888-226-5566
- Salvation Army Community Services Westbank: 1-888-226-5566

Table of Contents

Staying Informed	2
Key Contacts	3
Be safe - at all times and everywhere in your community	5
Re-Entry Checklist	6
Water Quality	7
Non-Governmental Organizations	8
Garbage Disposal	8
Tip Sheet 1: Steps to take when you return home	9
Tip Sheet 2: Cleaning	12
Tip Sheet 3: Preventing mold	14
Tip Sheet 4: Food disposal	15
Tip Sheet 5: Pets	16
Tip Sheet 6: Insurance information	17
Frequently Asked Questions	18
Health	18
Working	18
Road Safety and Maintenance	18
Community Services	19
Pets	20
Home and Property	20
Community Support	20
Utilities	21
Refrigerators and Freezers	21
Water Quality	24
Fridges and freezer safety protocol update	26
Landfill and Transfer Stations	28

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to read this entire package carefully before entry into your home to minimize the risk of danger to you and your family.



Be safe - at all times and everywhere in your community

Your safe return to your neighbourhood is our priority. Please make it your priority too. This package was created to give you the information you need to plan your safe return. Please refer to it often.

You are returning to a community that has been affected by a wildfire. Services that you are used to or rely on may be limited for some time.

Anyone with concerns about a medical condition is advised to consult with a physician before returning cxf home. People can call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 if they have questions or need help finding a physician.

Returning home after a wildfire evacuation can be a particularly stressful and traumatic experience. The thought of all the work that needs to be completed so that you and your family can return to your normal lives can feel overwhelming. If you need to talk, call the Mental Health Help Line at 310-6789 (no area code needed) or HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1.

Some areas will be fenced for safety and security purposes, and no stopping along Westside Road due to hazards. Please respect these restricted areas and any directions given to you by first responders or utilities workers. Doing so will keep you and your family and other members of the community safe.

Post-Wildfire Natural Hazards

Following a wildfire, certain areas with moderate to steep slopes may be at greater risk of exposure to geohazard. When the fires have subsided, the Province will be undertaking a program of post-wildfire natural hazard risk analysis in areas deemed to be at risk. Results will be provided to Local Government for dissemination to affected residents.

Learn more: climatereadybc.gov.bc.ca, or <https://pwnhr-bcgov03.hub.arcgis.com>.

Re-Entry Checklist



IMPORTANT: If, at any time, you feel your home or surroundings are unsafe, do not proceed.

- ✓ Visit your local government or private utility operator regularly for water quality information
- ✓ Stay informed about important local government services updates.
- ✓ Thoroughly check for hazards before entering your house.
- ✓ Exercise safety and caution when returning to a property by wearing items such as long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and rubber boots.
- ✓ Wear an N-95 or equivalent dust mask (disposable facemask to filter dust and other air particulates) to reduce potential smoke exposure.
- ✓ With limited services available in some areas, returning residents should expect some disruptions, service delays, and intermittent road closures.
- ✓ Refer to the **CLEANING** tip sheet in this booklet for detailed information on cleaning and what you may want to include in your cleaning kit.
- ✓ If your home has been impacted by water damage, please refer to the **PREVENTING MOLD** tip sheet in this booklet.
- ✓ All perishables must be disposed of in every home. All appliances must be cleaned and disinfected. For information on spoiled food removal refer to the **DISPOSING FOOD FROM YOUR HOME** tip sheet.
- ✓ Refer to the **STEPS TO TAKE WHEN YOU RETURN HOME** tip sheet for additional information on what to do when you arrive home.
- ✓ Contact your insurance provider as soon as possible. Refer to the **INSURANCE INFORMATION** tip sheet for more information. If you do not know the name of your insurer or your insurance representative, contact Insurance Bureau of Canada's Consumer Information Centre at 1-844-227-5422.
- ✓ Review the **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS** section for information on additional resources that may be available to you.
- ✓ Refer to the **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** section for some answers to commonly asked questions.

Water Quality

Your water system may have quality advisories. Visit the Water Advisory Map at <https://drinkingwaterforeveryone.ca/advisorymap> or your local water utility or jurisdiction's website for more information on current water quality conditions and updates.

Boil Water Notice

A boil water notice tells you that there are organisms in the water that can make you sick. To safely consume (swallow) the water, you must bring it to a rolling boil on a stovetop for at least 60 seconds to kill these harmful organisms.

Do Not Consume Notice

If Do Not Consume Notices are in effect, boiling water will not make it safe. This water should not be used for drinking, making beverages, brushing teeth or food preparation. All water users are advised to use an alternate source of water or bottled water for the above purposes.

It is okay to use the water for household cleaning, bathing and flushing toilets. The water in your hot water tank is also unsafe for consumption. Please consult a qualified plumber before draining your hot water tank.

Wells and private systems

If you are on a well, cistern or private water system that has been damaged, assume the water is not safe to drink. Contact your private provider, call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 or visit <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/environmental-health-and-hazards/drinking-water> for more information.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) can help

Several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are ready and willing to help the community. The following NGOs will be providing various services in the weeks and months ahead:

- Canadian Red Cross website: redcross.ca or call 1-888-350-6070
- Salvation Army website: salvationarmy.ca
- Samaritan's Purse website: samaritanspurse.ca or call 1-866-628-6565

Garbage Disposal



Talk with your insurers about what to do with your home contents, including spoiled food and appliances **before you take any action**. Insurers sometimes require inventory or photos.

Kelowna: Glenmore Landfill

Glenmore Landfill
2710 - 2720 John Hindle Dr.
250-469-8880

Hours of operation: Open daily: 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m

Asquith Road Transfer Station

Located at 2640 Asquith Road (off Shannon Lake Road) in West Kelowna for residential use only, no commercial material accepted.

Hours of operation: Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:50 pm

Traders Cove Transfer Station: Open

Wednesdays from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

North Westside Transfer Station: Open

Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additional hours Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. -12 p.m. for two weeks after re-entry

For the most up to date information, visit rdco.com/recycle or call 250-469-6250.

Tip Sheet 1: Steps to take when you return home

When returning to a home or business after a wildfire, it is best to take extra precautions. Unseen dangers may linger, ranging from gas leaks and weakened foundations to exposed wires and power lines. Using caution can help reduce potential injuries. Play it safe. When in doubt, ask for help or seek advice from an expert.

Here are tips for safely returning to your home or business after a wildfire:

Check the status of your property:

- Contact your insurance company to discuss claim options and your bank to discuss mortgage or loan payment deferrals.

Prior to travelling home, be prepared to bring enough supplies to be self-sufficient, including:

- food supplies (food left behind may be unsafe for consumption)
- clean drinking water
- medication (prescription or over-the-counter medication may not be safe to consume)
- boots
- long pants
- a long-sleeved shirt
- N-95 masks (surgical or dust masks not recommended). N-95 masks are available at hardware stores
- gloves
- a camera
- flashlight
- a cleaning kit

You may want to consider arriving with enough of these items to **last for up to 14 days**.

Other safety precautions:

- Check for hazards before entering your house.

- Do not allow children or pets to play in areas damaged by fire, and be aware of any fallen trees or power lines in the area.
- Do not try to use any electrical appliances or power in your home or garage that may have come into contact with fire, water or fire retardant until they have been cleared for use by a qualified electrician.
- Do a thorough visual inspection (including roofs and floors) of your property. The foundation and any brick or cement fireplace chimney may have been damaged by heat caused by fire.
- Check for electrical hazards such as exposed wires. Avoid contact with damaged or fallen power lines and poles. If there are any hazards, contact your provider:
 - BC Hydro at 1-800-BCHYDRO (1-800-224-9376)
- Beware of dust, ash, broken glass, and other sharp objects. Seek medical attention if you are injured.
- If you have a propane tank system, contact your service provider to do an inspection.
- Visually check the stability of trees around your property. Look for burn damage on the tree trunk or for visible damage to burnt tree roots. Any trees that have been damaged by fire may soon become a hazard. They may need to be cut down and removed.

Be cautious when going inside your home or business:

 ***Do not start cleaning or throwing anything away until you contact your insurance company.***

- Bring flashlights as there may not be power in your home.
- If applicable, ask your insurance provider what you should do about covering broken windows, doors and other exposed areas, pumping out water and any other activities you may need to do to secure and weatherproof your home.
- Take pictures and/or video and make a list of damaged belongings.
- Residents should expect power to have been restored upon re-entry. If the power is off in your home, please check your breaker panel. If it is still off, please call your provider, either BC Hydro at 1-800-BCHYDRO (1-800-224-9376)
- Wear boots, long sleeves, long pants, and rubber gloves when working in an area that has been affected by fire. If you or any of your family members have breathing difficulties or asthma, take all appropriate precautions to protect yourself.
- Wear an N-95 mask while sifting through debris to avoid inhaling smoke and ash.
- It is important to wash your hands if they come into contact with ash or burned items.
- Until the water is safe to use, please follow the Do Not Consume Notice or Water Advisory for your water system (check rdco.com/water for potential advisories in your area).
- If you are not on a municipal water system, check your private water, sewer and septic systems. Call the company or contractor that usually provides these services to ask for an assessment.

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- Be aware that animals may have taken shelter in your home, garage or outbuildings. Leaving a door open will allow animals to return to their natural surroundings on their own.
 - Dispose garbage properly! Be cautious when disposing of garbage, as it can attract bears and other wildlife, leading to human-wildlife conflicts.
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Tip Sheet 2: Cleaning

This tip sheet provides general information for when you begin the clean-up process. If you are unable to do so on your own, volunteers from the listed non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may be able to assist.

- Wash all interior walls and hard surfaces with a steam cleaner or white vinegar. **NEVER** use bleach to clean areas where (if any) fire retardants have been used. As far as we know, fire retardant was not dropped within your area. If you notice fire retardant residue on your property (red stains), use water or biodegradable household cleaners. Also clean inside cabinets, drawers and closets. Steam or wipe undersides of furniture, tables and chairs. To clean windows and glass, use clean water and a razor blade tool to help to remove any sticky residue.
- Use black garbage bags for disposal: Dispose of food and other landfill-appropriate items with your regular household garbage.
- Launder or dry clean: All clothing, linens and bedding should be laundered or dry cleaned.
- Wash all movable items: All movable items should be washed with a steam cleaner or microfibre cloth. This includes picture frames and knick-knacks.
- Wash all children's toys: Wash down children's outside toys, play structures and recreational equipment to remove any residual fire contaminants. Wash down sandboxes with clean water; if the sandbox drains directly into the soil, repeat this step several times. If the sandbox is a plastic container, remove the sand and replace it with clean sand.
- Disinfect and deodorize: Upholstery, fabric window treatments, etc., can be spray-treated with deodorizing products available at most supermarkets. Avoid room sprays since they just cover up the problem and don't fix it. Steam items including carpets, window coverings, upholstered furniture and mattresses. Steam melts the tar and neutralizes the odour and carbon film left by wildfires.
- Clean ductwork: Have heating, ventilating and air conditioning units and all ductwork professionally cleaned to remove soot, ash and smoke residue. Change filters when you first return to the premises and then continue to replace them at least once a month for the next year.
- Clean exterior surfaces: Pressure wash or scrub all exterior surfaces including walls, walks, drives, decks, windows and screens.
- Vinyl siding that has been stained by the use of fire retardant may qualify for replacement in most insurance policies. Contact your insurance company for coverage included in your policy.
- Consult a professional: If required, consult or hire professional cleaners.
- **Keep all receipts:** Remember to keep all receipts for cleaning and other expenses to provide to your insurance company for possible reimbursement.

Build a Clean-up Kit:

Consider the following to build a clean-up kit before you return home. Materials can be purchased at most hardware stores or wherever you normally buy household goods.

Disaster Management Clean-up Kits include:

- ☐ One 5-gallon bucket with a reusable lid
- ☐ One 20-ounce cotton wet mop head
- ☐ One 14" palmyra push broom head
- ☐ One 14" floor squeegee head
- ☐ Two 54" four-section metal handles
- ☐ One 9" palmyra capped sweep head
- ☐ One 7" scrub brush
- ☐ Two cellulose sponges
- ☐ One pair leather palm work gloves
- ☐ Two pairs household rubber gloves
- ☐ One N95 mask
- ☐ Ten heavy duty garbage bags
- ☐ One litre bleach-based all-purpose cleaner

(Optional) After Fire Clean-up Kits include:

- ☐ One full release smoke odour fogger
- ☐ One Tap-A-Drop 0.5 ounce concentrated liquid deodorizer for washing machine
- ☐ Two pairs leather-palm work gloves
- ☐ Ten garbage bags
- ☐ Flashlight with 3-AAA batteries included
- ☐ One 4-pack AAA batteries
- ☐ Surface antibacterial wipes
- ☐ One empty 32-ounce plastic spray bottle with trigger spray
- ☐ One 32-ounce bottle all-purpose cleaner/disinfectant
- ☐ One roll toilet paper
- ☐ Two pairs nitrile gloves
- ☐ Two pairs safety glasses – clear lens
- ☐ Drawstring backpack

Tip Sheet 3: Preventing mold

If your home was damaged by the wildfires, you will need to remove excess water to prevent mold growth. **Check with your insurance adjuster before completing any work on your damaged home.**

- Call your insurance company: Let your insurance company and restoration contractor know as soon as possible if you find any visible mold growth or smell mold inside your home.
- When you are trying to decide what to keep or to throw away, be safe and always remember: "When in doubt, throw it out."
- Dry all wet items as soon as possible. Wet or waterlogged carpeting should be dried as quickly as possible, and any underlay should be removed. Steam cleaning carpets with a disinfectant will be adequate.
- Remember to contact your insurance provider if you have any questions about whether to simply clean your refrigerator/freezer or to dispose of it if it has been damaged.
- Clean and disinfect: To help prevent mold growth, any water damaged or stained surfaces and appliances should be checked for damage, cleaned and disinfected with a 1:10 parts household bleach to water solution (2 tsp. bleach in 750 ml water or 1 capful bleach in 1 gallon water). **ONLY USE BLEACH IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO – NEVER USE BLEACH IN THE PRESENCE OF FIRE RETARDANTS.**
- Get air moving inside your house: Open windows and use a fan to circulate the inside air.
- Dehumidifiers reduce moisture: You may need to use a dehumidifier to help remove excess moisture from the air inside your home.
- You may wish to remove stained rugs, curtains and soft furniture from your home to clean them.

Tip Sheet 4: Food disposal

When you are trying to decide what food to keep or throw away, be safe and always remember: “When in doubt, throw it out.”

POWER WAS OUT IN YOUR HOME. ALL PERISHABLE ITEMS MUST BE DISPOSED OF IMMEDIATELY UPON YOUR RETURN, INCLUDING ITEMS IN YOUR FREEZER.

Fridges and freezer safety protocol update

Some residents may remember that during previous wildfire recoveries, refrigerators and freezers were often collected for disposal. Current health guidance from Interior Health advises that undamaged appliances can typically be cleaned, sanitized and safely returned to service, with the focus placed on the safe disposal of spoiled food and thorough cleaning of the appliance. Damaged appliances will be accepted at the Asquith Road Transfer Station, Glenmore Landfill and Planet Earth Recycling. Fridges and freezers **MUST** be emptied and cleaned. Interior Health recommends discarding any perishable foods that may have been stored above 4°C, as well as any frozen foods that have completely thawed. Once spoiled food has been removed, clean all interior surfaces, shelves, drawers and door seals with hot, soapy water, followed by a sanitizing solution, and allow the appliance to air dry before use.

Other items to dispose of:

- All dry goods that are not in sealed packages/cans.
- Any unrefrigerated raw vegetables or fruits, or any foods that were stored in porous containers (e.g., cardboard, foam containers, etc.).
- Food that was in bowls on counters/tables.
- Food that shows signs of damage from heat or fire, including ash or smoke.
- Any canned food where the can looks like it is bulging or rusted. Canned foods that look like they may be okay need to be cleaned and disinfected with soap and water before being opened to make sure the contents aren't contaminated.
- Any food that has come in contact with liquid waste, sewage, chemicals or water.
- Any food displaying an off odour or signs of spoilage.

Due to new protocols from Interior Health, fridges and freezers will not be collected.

Contact your insurance provider if you have any questions about whether to simply clean your refrigerator/freezer or to dispose of it if it has been damaged by wildfire.

Learn more at: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/natural-disasters-and-emergencies>



Tip Sheet 5: Pets

Pets are an important part of our families. Below is a list of questions that we anticipate you may have.

My pet was cared for by ALERT, but I haven't been able to pick it up yet. What do I do now?

To find out more details about your pet's care or to retrieve your animal, call the agency that assisted when you were evacuated.

- Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team (ALERT) call 250-809-7152

My pet has passed away in my home. What do I do?

We are sorry for your loss and understand this will be upsetting for you and your family. It is your choice how to dispose of your pet. Your veterinarian may offer cremation options; you may choose to bury your pet on your property or small animals can be disposed of with your waste.



Tip Sheet 6: Insurance information

If you are insured:

1. If your home has a mortgage, call the bank or company that holds this mortgage to let them know about the wildfires as soon as possible.
2. Contact your insurance company/broker as soon as possible. Most have a 24-hour claims service. The sooner the insurance company is notified, the quicker your insurance claim can be processed.
3. Try to create an inventory of household items, both inside and outside of the buildings, which have been damaged by fire. Photograph or videotape the damage as much as possible.
4. Work with your insurance company to find out what is covered, what is not covered and what may be subject to further discussion.
5. Work with your insurance company and their accredited fire restoration companies to try to restore or rebuild your home.
6. In the event that any of these suggestions conflict with information provided by your insurer, please follow the instructions provided by your insurer.

If you are not insured:

For information on available assistance, check with:

- Emergency Support Services (ESS) call 1-800-585-9559
- Canadian Red Cross: call 1-800-863-6582 or website: redcross.ca
- Other non-government organizations

Restoration Contractors:

- As much as possible, work with and through your insurance company. They can recommend reputable restoration contractors who know the proper standards to follow.
- If you decide to choose your own restoration contractor, check their references.
- If anyone in your family is sensitive to chemicals or mold, you need to let the restoration contractor know so that they can take all necessary precautions.

If you have questions about a certain contractor, or issues arise, visit Consumer Protection BC office at consumerprotectionbc.ca or call 1-888-564-9963.

Frequently Asked Questions

Health

I have a medical condition. Should I return home?

Anyone with concerns about a medical condition is advised to consult with a physician before returning home. People can call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 if they have questions or need help finding a physician.

Where can I get mental health support?

Experiencing a disaster such as a wildfire can be particularly stressful and overwhelming. If you need to talk, call the BC Crisis Line / Mental Health Support call 310-6789 (no area code needed) or HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1.

The BC Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association also has excellent resources for dealing with natural disaster stress at website cmha.bc.ca.

Working

My workplace was destroyed in the fire and I'm now unemployed. What do I do now?

Affected workers are encouraged to apply for Employment Insurance (EI) benefits as soon as possible, even without a Record of Employment.

If you were receiving EI benefits before the evacuation, you should also contact EI as it could affect how you're reporting activity.

- Apply by phone: 1-800-206-7218, choose option 6
- Apply online at <http://www.esdc.gc.ca/en/ei/apply.page>

Are you concerned about whether or not it's safe to return to work?

Safety of workers is paramount. Workers are protected by BC's Occupational Health and Safety laws.

If you have questions or concerns about working conditions, talk to your employer. If you still have concerns after speaking with your employer, visit worksafebc.com

Road Safety and Maintenance

Who maintains the neighbourhood roads?

In Electoral Areas, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for roads including safety and maintenance. Highway 97 is maintained by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Please call the Province's contractor AIM Roads at 1-866-222-4204 for maintenance or safety concerns.

Where do I get information about road closures or delays?

Visit drivebc.ca for info about traffic, road and weather conditions.

Is the community accessible for persons with disabilities?

There may be unique circumstances that have yet to be identified. If you require assistance or would like to report an issue, please email info@rdco.com.

Community Services

Are schools open?

Check with your local school.

- School District #23 (Central Okanagan) call 250-860-8888
- School District #22 (Vernon) call 250-542-3331
- OKIB Cultural Immersion School call 250-542-1893

Will the Glenmore Landfill, Asquith Road, North Westside or Traders Cove Transfer Station be open?

The Glenmore Landfill is open and available for waste disposal during regular business hours. Find more information at kelowna.ca/landfill

Hazardous materials and demolition waste such as wood from damaged structures or burnt vehicles cannot be accepted at this time. For other disposal options or if you have questions about waste, visit rdco.com/recycle or call 250-469-6250.

If your refrigerator or freezer is damaged and is not working (cannot maintain less than 4 degrees and is not cleanable), contact the insurance company about coverage as an eligible expense.

If your refrigerator or freezer was NOT damaged and continues to work, take additional steps to clean your refrigerator and freezer. See the Cleaning tips information sheet for more information.

Asquith Road Transfer Station

Located at 2640 Asquith Road (off Shannon Lake Road) in West Kelowna for residential use only, no commercial material accepted.

Hours of operation: Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Gate closes at 3:50 p.m.

Fridges and Freezers are accepted at the Asquith Transfer Station but must be cleaned out prior to drop off.

Traders Cove Transfer Station: Open

Wednesdays from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fridges and Freezers are NOT accepted at the Traders Cove Transfer Station.

North Westside Transfer Station: Open

Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additional hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For the most up to date information, visit rdco.com/recycle or call 250-469-6250.

Pets

I have questions about my pet, who do I contact?

Please refer to the **PETS** tip sheet in this booklet for further information.

Home and Property

Do I need to get my home inspected?

Please talk to your insurance provider. Refer to the **INSURANCE INFORMATION** tip sheet in this package.

Do I need permits to begin rebuilding and repairing my house?

The Regional District of Central Okanagan administers licenses and permits for the Central Okanagan West Electoral Area.

- For planning and land use questions, call RDCO Planning Services at 250-469-6227 or email planning@rdco.com
- For building permit or inspection questions, call 250-469-6211 or email inspections@rdco.com

How do I know if my house was without power?

A simple way of knowing is if your digital clocks are blinking. However, this will not indicate how long the power was off. If you need specific information call BC Hydro at 1-800-BCHYDRO (1-800-224-9376)

Community Support

How can I register my home so that people can stay with me?

If you would like to offer accommodation, this can be done privately. Popular options for sharing this kind of information include:

- Reaching out to your personal networks.
- Contact local property management companies to discuss listing options.
- Using online and traditional classified services I.e., Kijiji, Facebook Marketplace and local media outlets.

Where can I donate money, food, and clothing?

Monetary donations to the charity of your choice are encouraged and appreciated.

Utilities

Once you are home, you may need to re-establish your utilities or check your billing. Contact your provider directly. Included below are some of the common ones in our area.

- BC Hydro call 1-800-BCHYDRO (1-800-224-9376)
- BC 1 Call (for any underground service inquiries before you dig) website: bc1c.ca or call 1-800-474-6886
- RDCO Utility water systems: website rdco.com/water or call 250-469-6241 (M-F from 8 am to 4 pm) and 250-868-5299 (after hours / emergencies only)
- Rogers/Shaw Toll-free: call 1-888-472-2222 or websites: shaw.ca rogers.com
- TELUS Mobility: *611 on your TELUS mobile phone or call 1-866-558-2273
- TELUS Internet: Toll-free call 1-888-811-2323 or website: telus.com

Note: For private water systems, contact your provider or the contractor who regularly services your system.

Refrigerators and Freezers

- Remember to contact your insurance provider if you have any questions about whether to simply clean your refrigerator/freezer or to dispose of it.
- If your refrigerator or freezer is damaged and is not working (cannot maintain less than 4 degrees and is not cleanable), contact the insurance company about coverage as an eligible expense and your local government about its safe disposal.
- If your refrigerator or freezer was NOT damaged and continues to work, take additional steps to clean your refrigerator and freezer as outlined by [Interior Health](#).

After contacting your insurance provider, please follow these steps to dispose of a damaged refrigerator or freezer:

1. Remove all contents before taking the appliance to a disposal site. Place any food waste in garbage bags and dispose of it at the Glenmore Landfill or your local Transfer Station.

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2. Dispose of the empty appliance by bringing it to the Asquith Road Transfer Station or the Glenmore Landfill. Please note that refrigerators and freezers containing food will not be accepted.

CLEAN EMPTY FRIDGES can also be brought free of charge to:

Planet Earth Recycling

#3 1400 Industrial Road

West Kelowna

250-768-0878

Open Monday – Saturday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm | Closed Sunday



Water



Central Okanagan
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Water Quality

Due to the wildfires, your water system may have quality advisories. Visit the Water Advisory Map at <https://drinkingwaterforeveryone.ca/advisorymap> or your local jurisdiction's website for more information on current water quality conditions and updates.

Boil Water Notice

A boil water notice tells you that there are organisms in the water that can make you sick. To safely consume (swallow) the water, you must bring it to a rolling boil on a stovetop for at least 60 seconds to kill these harmful organisms.

Do Not Consume Notice

If Do Not Consume Notices are in effect, boiling water will not make it safe. This water should not be used for drinking, making beverages, brushing teeth or food preparation. All water users are advised to use an alternate source of water or bottled water for the above purposes.

It is okay to use the water for household cleaning, bathing and flushing toilets. The water in your hot water tank is also unsafe for consumption. Please consult a qualified plumber before draining your hot water tank.

Wells and private systems

If you are on a well, cistern or private water system that has been damaged, assume the water is not safe to drink. Contact your private provider, call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 or visit <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/environmental-health-and-hazards/drinking-water> for more information.



Fridges



Central Okanagan
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Fridges and freezer safety protocol update

DO NOT DISPOSE OF YOUR FRIDGE OR FREEZER WITHOUT READING THIS UPDATE

Some residents may remember that during previous wildfire recoveries, refrigerators and freezers were often collected for disposal. Current health guidance advises that undamaged appliances can typically be cleaned, sanitized and safely returned to service, with the focus placed on the safe disposal of spoiled food and thorough cleaning of the appliance.

Interior Health recommends discarding any perishable foods that may have been stored above 4°C, as well as any frozen foods that have completely thawed. Once spoiled food has been removed, clean all interior surfaces, shelves, drawers and door seals with hot, soapy water, followed by a sanitizing solution, and allow the appliance to air dry before use.

Other items to dispose of:

- All dry goods that are not in sealed packages/cans.
- Any unrefrigerated raw vegetables or fruits, or any foods that were stored in porous containers (e.g., cardboard, foam containers, etc.).
- Food that was in bowls on counters/tables.
- Food that shows signs of damage from heat or fire, including ash or smoke.
- Any canned food where the can looks like it is bulging or rusted. Canned foods that look like they may be okay need to be cleaned and disinfected with soap and water before being opened to make sure the contents aren't contaminated.
- Any food that has come in contact with liquid waste, sewage, chemicals or water.
- Any food displaying an off odour or signs of spoilage.

Fridges and freezers will not be collected as recommended by Interior Health.

Contact your insurance provider if you have any questions about whether to simply clean your refrigerator/freezer or to dispose of it if it has been damaged by wildfire.

Learn more at: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/natural-disasters-and-emergencies>



Garbage



Central Okanagan
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Landfill and Transfer Stations

The Glenmore Landfill is open daily and available for waste disposal 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 pm. Find more information at kelowna.ca/landfill

Hazardous materials and demolition waste such as wood from damaged structures or burnt vehicles cannot be accepted at this time. For other disposal options or if you have questions about waste, visit rdco.com/recycle or call 250-469-6250.

If your refrigerator or freezer is damaged and is not working (cannot maintain less than 4 degrees and is not cleanable), contact the insurance company about coverage as an eligible expense. Damaged refrigerators and freezers can be dropped off at the Asquith Road Transfer Station, the Glenmore Landfill or Planet Earth Recycling. All appliances must be emptied to be accepted at these locations.

Where can people dispose of their fridges and freezers if damaged?

If your refrigerator or freezer was NOT damaged and continues to work, take additional steps to clean your refrigerator and freezer.

Asquith Road Transfer Station

Located at 2640 Asquith Road (off Shannon Lake Road) in West Kelowna for residential use only, no commercial material accepted

Hours of operation: Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.
Gate closes at 3:50 p.m.

Traders Cove Transfer Station: Open

Wednesdays from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

North Westside Road Transfer Station: Open

Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additional hours Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for two weeks after re-entry

For the most up to date information, visit rdco.com/recycle or call 250-469-6250.