

COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY CONSIDERATIONS SCREENING CHECKLIST

FOR FIRST NATIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

SCOPE

This is a tool designed to support First Nations (FN) and Local Authorities (LA) in making decisions regarding re-entry to communities and allowing residents to return to their homes.

INTRODUCTION

Once BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) determines an area is safe from fire-related hazards, the FN or LA will decide when and how to authorize community re-entry. The following tool includes considerations to assist in making this decision, and which agency is responsible in providing support and advice through this process. FN communities may experience disproportionate impacts of emergency evacuations. Additional agencies may be involved in supporting the processes summarized in the table below while respecting the self-determination of FNs in shaping their re-entry approaches. This is a generic tool that recognizes that services vary from community to community, and acknowledges it is within the FN or LAs' own discretion to determine the minimum level of service required for community re-entry. Consideration should be given to public communication strategies, ensuring residents are adequately informed to the available service levels and how to best prepare for returning home. For further information on any of these considerations, please refer to the [Community Re-Entry Guide](#).

INSTRUCTIONS

- **HIGH:** These are high priority re-entry considerations. Unless all categories are complete, it is highly recommended FNs and LAs do not initiate re-entry.
- **MEDIUM:** These are medium priority re-entry considerations. If applicable, it is advised that FNs and LAs complete these categories prior to re-entry. Please check with the lead agency with any questions or concerns.
- **LOW:** These are lower priority re-entry considerations. If applicable, these categories are considered re-entry best practices and are encouraged; however, it should be left to the local authority's discretion as to whether this activity is necessary.

Consideration	Priority	Lead Agency	Date Completed
1. Wildfire and related risks no longer pose an imminent threat (Reference Guide Pg. 3)			
BCWS confirms it is safe to return to affected area	HIGH	-BCWS	
Hazard tree assessment completed	HIGH	- BCWS	
Air quality assessment completed	HIGH	- Ministry of Environment (MoE) - First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) - Regional health authority	
Drinking water quality assessment completed	HIGH	- Regional health authority - Office of the Provincial Health Officer	
Soil quality assessment completed	HIGH	- MoE - MoH - FNHA	
Hazardous materials identified and mitigated	HIGH	- FN / LA (with support from BCWS)	
Hazardous area secured	HIGH	- FN / LA (with support from BCWS)	
Post-wildfire hazard assessment underway	MEDIUM	-BCWS -Forest, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations (FLNRO) -EMBC	
2. Transportation routes accessible and critical infrastructure (CI) safe and secured (Pg. 4)			
Roadways (also consider paths, trails, and backroads)	HIGH	-Road Owner (FN / LA) Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), Private Owner)	
Bridges	HIGH	-Bridge Owner	
Railway	MEDIUM	-Rail Owner / Operator	
Waterway	MEDIUM	-Owner / Operator	
Public Transit	MEDIUM	- FN / LA - School District	
3. Public communications and tours (Pg. 5)			
Public communications (air quality, services, etc.)	HIGH	- FN / LA (with support as requested from EMBC, FNHA)	

Consideration	Priority	Lead Agency	Date Completed
COVID-19 public health orders and Guidance followed for all communications, community activities, and tours.	High	- Regional health authority, First Nations Health Authority	
Controlled resident tour of affected area, if applicable	MEDIUM	- FN / LA (with support from EMBC, FNHA as needed)	
Controlled media tour, if applicable	LOW	- FN / LA	

Consideration	Priority	Lead Agency	Date Completed
4. Access to utilities (Pg. 6)			
Restored access to critical infrastructure operators	HIGH	- FN / LA and CI	
Electricity restoration plans underway	HIGH	- FN / LA, with provider	
Hydro services have been restored in re-entry areas	HIGH	- FN / LA, with provider	
Public access to potable water	HIGH	- FN / LA (with support from FNHA and ISC)	
Access to water for firefighting	HIGH	- FN / LA (with support from BCWS)	
Sanitation or temporary toilet access	HIGH	- FN / LA (with support from EMBC, ISC)	
Communication systems restored	HIGH	- FN / LA, with provider	
Natural gas systems secured and safe	HIGH	- FN / LA, with provider	
Public access to fuel	HIGH	- FN / LA (working with local providers, EMBC, and ISC depending on the situation)	
5. Structure damage assessments complete (Pg. 6)			
Rapid damage assessment completed in affected area	HIGH	- FN / LA (with support from EMBC and BC Housing) -BC Housing	
Critical Infrastructure damage assessment	HIGH	-CI Owner / Operator - FN with ISC as required	
6. Essential services restored to basic level (Pg. 7)			
Fire services available	HIGH	- FN / LA	
Police services available	HIGH	LA / RCMP	
911 dispatch available	HIGH	LA	

Consideration	Priority	Lead Agency	Date Completed
7. Health care services available (Pg. 7)			
Hospital or healthcare access	HIGH	Regional Health Authority - FNHA	
Ambulance services	HIGH	- BCEHS	
Any specialized health services as appropriate based on regional health authority advice	HIGH	- Regional Health Authority	
Long-term healthcare facilities available	MEDIUM	Regional Health Authority / Owner	
Psychosocial supports	MEDIUM	- FNHA-FN - HEMBC	
Information provided to residents at a higher risk of health concerns	MEDIUM	Regional Health Authority - FNHA	
8. Local government services available (Pg. 7)			
Garbage / waste / debris disposal services available	MEDIUM	- FN / LA (with support from EMBC, ISC)	
Administration offices open	MEDIUM	- FN / LA	
9. Recovery supports established (Pg. 8)			
Public information available	HIGH	- FN / LA	
Resiliency Centres established, if applicable	MEDIUM	- FN / LA (with support from EMBC and partner agencies)	
Access to transitional housing, if applicable	MEDIUM	- FN / LA with support from BC, ISC	
Available NGOs and contractors to support affected residents	LOW	- FN / LA -Contractors / NGOs	
10. Access to public services (Pg. 8)			
Public access to food	HIGH	- FN / LA	
Public access to prescribed pharmaceuticals	HIGH	- Regional Health Authority - BC Pharmacy Association - FN / LA (with support from FNHA)	
Public access to financial supports	MEDIUM	- FN / LA	
11. Insurance support established (Pg. 9)			
Insurance providers/assessors available, if applicable	MEDIUM	-Insurance Bureau of Canada -Insurance Providers/Brokers Assoc	

Consideration	Priority	Lead Agency	Date Completed
12. Recovery assets in place (Pg. 9)			
Cleanup equipment available (bulldozer, excavator, etc.), if applicable	MEDIUM	- FN / LA	
13. Livestock re-entry (Pg. 9)			
Applicable services available (SPCA, veterinary, etc.)	MEDIUM	-Provider	
Include resource information for residents	MEDIUM	- FN / LA	