

# Rescinding an Evacuation Order Checklist for Local Authorities and First Nations

When the threat to life and safety has passed and it is safe for individuals to return to the impacted area, the regional district, municipality, or Modern Treaty Nation must rescind the evacuation order. In some cases, it may be recommended to keep the formerly evacuated area on an evacuation alert.

The checklist below is a recommended approach to rescinding an evacuation order. For regional districts, municipalities, and Modern Treaty Nations, some of the steps described below relate to powers, or duties, under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*. For more details see the **Evacuation Operational Guide**, located on EMCR's [Local Emergency Resource Operations webpage](#). Other First Nations may wish to follow these steps, as applicable, on a voluntary basis.

1. Consult with the subject matter experts, and adjacent local authorities and Indigenous governing bodies as required by the Act, to determine if an evacuation order should be rescinded.
2. As part of the consultation with Indigenous governing bodies and adjacent local authorities, provide them with notice of the details of the intended actions. If rescinding the evacuation order will impact Modern Treaty Nation lands or people, obtain their consent to rescind the evacuation order first.
3. If the evacuation order will be rescinded, notify the policy group (e.g., council / board / band council) and first responder agencies.
4. Coordinate early re-entry for community support agencies (e.g., health agencies, school districts, critical infrastructure agencies, etc.) before rescinding the evacuation order to prepare for returning evacuees. The evacuation order may need to be amended to authorize these agencies to temporarily enter the evacuated area.
5. Consider allowing individuals who may have lost homes or property early access into the evacuated area. The evacuation order may need to be amended to authorize these individuals to temporarily enter the evacuated area.
6. Once the area has been prepared for re-entry, issue a written order rescinding the evacuation order that:
  - o references the current evacuation order that is being rescinded; and
  - o clearly identifies what parts of the original evacuation order are being rescinded (e.g., in a certain geographic boundary).

*The information in this document is for your convenience and guidance only. It is not legal advice or a replacement for the legislation.*

7. Notify evacuated individuals that the evacuation order has been rescinded (e.g., through social and traditional media, automatic notification systems, announcements at Reception Centres and Group Lodging facilities). If you have an active BC Emergency Alert, contact your EMCR Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) to cancel the alert.
8. Email a copy of the Rescind Evacuation Order to your EMCR PREOC.
9. Publish the executed order online as soon as reasonably practicable.

**For immediate assistance with an evacuation, contact EMCR's 24/7 Emergency Coordination Centre at 1-800-663-3456 and ask to speak with the Regional Duty Manager for your region.**

**Resource:** a Rescind Evacuation Order template is available on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

**More information:**

Online: [gov.bc.ca/emergencymanagementact](http://gov.bc.ca/emergencymanagementact)

Email: [modernizeEM@gov.bc.ca](mailto:modernizeEM@gov.bc.ca)

For specific inquiries, contact your EMCR PREOC.

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