



JUNE 15
WELCOME
HOME

District of Tumbler Ridge
Welcome Back to Tumbler Ridge

We are pleased to inform you that the **Evacuation ORDER** for the District of Tumbler Ridge has been lifted, and an **Evacuation ALERT** is now in effect starting from **June 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**

However, it is crucial to note that the threat of wildfire still remains in the District of Tumbler Ridge area. The wildfire is still active, and you are currently residing in a **high-risk zone**.

As we continue to be on **ALERT**, we kindly request the community to be prepared by taking the following steps:

- Ensure your vehicles have **full tanks of fuel**.
- **Prepare your valuables**, documents, medications, and other important personal items for easy access.

Be Prepared.

If you know any friends or neighbors who do not have internet access or are not on social media, please share this information. Printed copies will also be available at the Community Centre.



Be Safe.

Returning to an area that has been affected by a wildfire can be stressful and traumatic. This document aims to assist you in knowing **what steps to take** and **where to seek help**. We express our gratitude to the first responders who have tirelessly worked to protect our communities. While some services may have initial limitations, essential services such as RCMP and BCEHS are already available.

For your safety, please refrain from entering burned areas as they can be hazardous. Respect any restricted areas and comply with instructions from first responders and utility workers. A fire ban remains in effect. An **Area Restriction** is currently in effect for the **Bearhole Lake area**, prohibiting entry for any purpose, including recreational activities.

During your return, you may encounter trucks and personnel working in the area. Please give them space to continue their work, and remember to yield to them as they have the right of way.



We appreciate your cooperation, and we genuinely hope you have a safe journey back to your homes in Tumbler Ridge.





JUNE 15
WELCOME
HOME

Things You Might See:

While you were away, firefighters may have taken some actions around your homes and properties in preparation for possible wildfire in the community.

You May Notice:

- propane tanks and BBQs pulled away from their usual spot - they were moved away from your home to make sure they didn't ignite or explode during the forest fire and endanger your homes.
- outdoor furniture on your lawn - items can catch flying embers and start fires on your decks and in your yards.
- coloured tape on your homes - these were used to alert officials of the status of your home (vacant, sprinklers installed, etc.)

You can move your items back into your yards.

First Steps When You Return Home:

Check your gas, electricity, and water to make sure they are working and contact your utility providers if you need to restore service. The hydro/electricity did not go out during the evacuation. **PNG will be in Tumbler Ridge on June 15 and 16.** Call **1-800-667-2297** to request a relight. Should you smell gas—which has the odour of rotten eggs—or hear gas hissing, please go outside and call **PNG's 24/7 emergency number which is 1-800-663-1173.**

Water: Drinking and Household Use

- We have tested the water and it is safe to drink.
- You should run one of your taps for 1-3 minutes to refresh the taste of the water.
- You are able to shower, do laundry and use your water as you normally would.

Garbage

- The **Tumbler Ridge Transfer Station** will be open **Thursday June 15 (12PM-6PM), Friday June 16 (10AM-6PM) and Saturday June 17 (10AM-6PM)**
- Regular pickup will resume operation on your normally scheduled day beginning the week of June 19. If you cannot bring your garbage to the transfer station, you can put your bin out on **Monday June 19** and the District will pick it up.

Air Quality

People with breathing difficulties should monitor the air quality upon returning. Residents should continue to review the air quality statements issued by Environment Canada.

Employee/Employer Questions

If you have questions regarding your employment, return to work, compensation etc. please contact your employer. Employers can visit the BCEDA website to access resources in their **Disaster Preparation and Recovery** program at **www.bceda.ca**

Dealing with Stress and Trauma

Disasters, such as wildfires, can impact your emotional health as much as your physical health. Learn what you can do to recognize signs of stress or trauma in yourself and your family. **DPS (Disaster Psychosocial Services)** will be at the **Community Centre (room 4)** to offer support on **June 15 & 16 from 2PM to 5PM.**

- For health advice or information on health services, including mental health services, call Health Link at **8-1-1.**
- For mental health help and information, call **310-6789** (no area code)

Emergencies

If you have an emergency, call **9-1-1.**

We extend our sincere gratitude to the many people, especially our First Responders, who have worked tirelessly to protect our community. First and foremost, we express our appreciation to the **BC Wildfire Service** and their partners, the **RCMP**, and our **Tumbler Ridge Fire Department**. We also thank our mutual aid fire departments and the numerous other **fire departments from across the province** that stepped up for Tumbler Ridge. Additionally, we express our thanks to the **Canadian Rangers**, multiple **Search and Rescue organizations** including **Tumbler Ridge, North Peace, and South Peace**. Thank you to **BCEHS**, and **Northern Health**. We are grateful to **Golden Arrow** for providing transportation for evacuees. Thank you to the **District staff** who stayed behind to maintain infrastructure and operate the Emergency Operations Centre. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the **Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres** and our **neighboring communities**, especially **Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, and Fort St. John**, for providing **ESS support** to our residents.