

**August 16, 2025, 6 p.m.**

## **UPDATE**

### **Q: What alerts or orders are in place for the Wesley Ridge wildfire?**

A: As of August 16, 2025, at 6 p.m. the following order and alert has been removed.

- The Evacuation Order for 35 properties that were on order has been lifted
- The Evacuation Alert for 268 properties that were on alert has been lifted

The public notice, alert and order can be viewed online at [rdn.bc.ca/current-alerts](https://rdn.bc.ca/current-alerts)

## **Emergency Support Services**

### ***Q: I am currently receiving Emergency Support Services (ESS) for the Wesley Ridge wildfire. How long will I receive support?***

A: Emergency Support Services are available to those who were under evacuation order until 11 a.m. on Monday, August 18, 2025. Call the provincial ESS call center at 1-800-387-4258, go online via self-serve at [ess.gov.bc.ca](https://ess.gov.bc.ca).

If you have insurance, please work with your insurance provider before seeking ESS.

If you're feeling overwhelmed, anxious or distressed, support is available from the BC Mental Health Support Line at 310-6789.

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## **Re-Entry**

### ***Q: I can return home, what do I need to know?***

A: Returning home after a wildfire can be overwhelming as the area may look different.

As you return home after the wildfire evacuation, please keep in mind that your community may look different than when you left it. Use caution and exercise good judgment when re-entering an area that was affected by the wildfire. Hazards may still exist, including hot spots that can flare up without warning.

In addition:

- **Little Qualicum River Village is on a Boil Water Notice.**
  - Returning evacuees are asked to limit water use to essential needs only (drinking, cooking, short showers, etc.) until advised otherwise. For detailed water use, information and direction, residents should contact the Strata Press Portal to reach council.
- Inspect your home carefully before entering. Watch for unstable structures, ash pits and fallen trees.
- Mark ash pits for safety. Ash pits are holes full of hot ashes, created by burned trees and stumps. You can be seriously burned by falling into ash pits or landing in them with your hands or feet. Warn your family and neighbours to keep clear of the pits.
- Be mindful of danger trees and consider having an assessment done by a professional.
- BC Hydro reports that homes in your area lost power during the wildfire evacuation order. If a home was without power for longer than 48 hours the food may be hazardous to consume; please reference your Island Health materials (in your welcome home package) for further guidance.

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- For Water Advisory information on RDN and utility services visit: [rdn.bc.ca/water-and-utility-services](https://rdn.bc.ca/water-and-utility-services).
- 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 face mask to filter dust and other air particulates) to reduce potential smoke exposure.
- Curbside service has partially resumed. Please visit the RDN website to look up your address at [rdn.bc.ca/curbside-collection](https://rdn.bc.ca/curbside-collection) to see if your collection has resumed or is still paused.
- All spoiled food can be discarded as normal. Note: curbside pick-up service will be updated through the RDN curbside app.
- For general RDN emergency operations centre information: 250-390-6538.

For more information on re-entering your home, visit: [rdn.bc.ca/wesleyridgewildfire](https://rdn.bc.ca/wesleyridgewildfire)

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***Q: When will curbside resume in my area?***

**A:** Curbside service has partially resumed in some areas. For residents whose service remains temporarily paused, tipping fees for organics and waste will be waived at the Church Road Transfer Station. Please visit the RDN website to look up your address at [rdn.bc.ca/curbside-collection](https://rdn.bc.ca/curbside-collection) to see if your collection has resumed or is still paused.

RC Route (Whiskey Creek/Coombs/Hilliers/etc.):

- Curbside Collection in your area has resumed normal operations (Garbage and Organics). A special collection for Recycling only will occur on Monday, August 18. **Please place your recycling cart at the curb by 8 a.m. on Monday, August 18.**

RE Route (Spider Lake/Meadowood/Little Qualicum, etc.):

- Curbside Collection has now resumed in your area. Your next scheduled collection day, Monday, August 18, has been changed to a three-stream Garbage, Organics, and Recycling Collection to help manage overflow from the missed collection. This special collection will occur using multiple collection vehicles. **Leave all three of your carts at the curb until they are all collected or until 6 p.m.**
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## **Recreational use**

***Q: Are any RDN parks or trails closed?***

A: Meadowood Community Park remains closed. Please visit [rdn.bc.ca/parks-trails-alerts](https://rdn.bc.ca/parks-trails-alerts) for an up-to-date status of RDN parks and trails.

***Q: Can we use Cameron, Horne or Spider Lakes?***

A: For your safety, and the safety of Wesley Ridge wildfire response crews, lake users are asked to stay within 100 meters of the shoreline when on or in the lake. These lakes are being used as a water source for ongoing air support of the wildfire. Boaters and other lake users should be aware that aircraft are active in the area.

***Q: Can I remove my boat/watercraft from Horne Lake?***

The Horne Lake Boat Launch is currently closed for general use. It is open for boat/watercraft REMOVAL until further notice.

Public looking to remove their boat/watercraft from Horne Lake may be permitted to do so under the following conditions:

1. To move your boat/watercraft to the boat launch, stay within 100 meters of the shoreline.
2. Strata members are strongly encouraged to use the locked strata boat launch to remove their boat/watercraft from the water.

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## **Staying Informed**

***Q: Where can I get information about the Wesley Ridge wildfire?***

A: Please go to the BC Wildfire Services website at [wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map](https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map).

***Q: Is the RDN responding to the Mount Underwood Wildfire?***

A: The Mount Underwood Fire discovered on August 11, 2025, is situated between Port Alberni and Bamfield within the jurisdiction of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. The BC Wildfire Service in coordination with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District are responding to this fire – the RDN is not involved in responding.

For further updates on the Mount Underwood Wildfire, visit [wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map](https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map) or contact the Mount Underwood Fire Emergency Operations Centre at 250-720-2738.

## Safety While Traveling or Encountering Fire

***Q: Is Highway 4 closed? Can I drive to/from Tofino?***

A: Check DriveBC at [drivebc.ca](https://drivebc.ca) for current road conditions. If you travel, bring safety supplies, food and water. Do not stop to take photos, as this can obstruct emergency responders.

***Q: What should I do if I encounter wildfire while driving?***

A: Do not drive through a wildfire. Pull over safely, stay in your vehicle and wait for instructions from emergency personnel.

***Q: What should I do if I see a wildfire?***

A: Report it immediately by calling:

- 911, or
  - BC Wildfire Service: 1-800-663-5555 or \*\*5555 from a cell phone
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## Additional Resources

- For information on the status of highways: [drivebc.ca/](https://drivebc.ca/)
- For information on the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI):  
<https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/data/aqhi-table.html>
- For updates on fire weather and smoke across Canada: [firesmoke.ca/](https://firesmoke.ca/)