



Town of Swan Hills
Community
Re-entry
Information



Welcome Home!

This information is intended for the Town of Swan Hills residents and businesses who have been evacuated due to the Grizzly Complex Wildfire.

We thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we work to return life back to as normal as possible. Please use this information to help guide you in our re-entry.

Returning home may be stressful and overwhelming. Call **1-877-303-2642** for free 24/7 mental health support.

We extend our sincere gratitude to first responders, staff, and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to keep our community and residents safe, many of whom are from other communities and districts.

Please note that while the evacuation order has been rescinded, the

State of Local Emergency remains in effect.

We will remain under a 4 hour evacuation notice.

The Town of Swan Hills understands that the previous several days have caused considerable inconvenience to all involved, and we wish to make it clear that the decision to maintain the evacuation order until this time was a decision that was based solely on public safety, with advice from Alberta Wildfire. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and we greatly appreciate everyone's patience and assistance.

Please be aware that the wildfire danger still exists in our region, and you should be prepared in the event the situation worsens. Please be cautious and courteous during the re-enter process.



Re-entry Checklist

✓ If you are re-entering the Town of Swan Hills evacuation zone, here are the steps you need to take:

- When re-entering the community, drive carefully and follow the instructions of any road crews or officers. There will be ongoing activity for structure protection and fire suppression. Be prepared for heavy traffic.
- Although there was no interruption to utilities, please check your utilities (gas, power, water, internet). Contact your utility providers if your utilities are not working. If you smell gas, exit your home immediately and call your utility provider or 911.
- Contact your relatives/loved ones to tell them where you are.
- Throw out all food that may have spoiled, especially items that have sat out for an extended period of time.
- Check the official Town of Swan Hills Facebook page or website for any important updates on re-entry.

Please be patient and flexible. Re-entering an evacuation area can be a slow process and plans can change based on the situation. Have patience with crews, other residents, and businesses.



Restoration of Services

Food

Grocery store is fully stocked and open – regular hours

Restaurants are open – regular hours

Fuel

Fuel stations are open – regular hours

Pharmacy

Pharmacy is open – regular hours

Retail

Retail stores are open – regular hours

Banking

Bank will open with regular hours on Thursday, May 25, 2023

Election

Polling stations, including early polls will resume hours of operation on Thursday, May 25, 2023

Postal Services

Canada Post will have mail, including parcels redirected to town and will resume regular hours Thursday, May 25, 2023

School

School will return to regular schedule on Thursday, May 25, 2023



Accommodations

Hotel and Motels are open – regular hours

Emergency – 911

The Alberta Emergency System has been notified that evacuees will be returning.

Healthcare

The Town of Swan Hills has contracted a private medical transport service with personnel to respond to medical emergencies and transport if necessary, while AHS goes through the process of re-opening our healthcare facility and re-instating ambulance service. If you require medical assistance – **call 911**

Commercial Waste Collection

GFL will do commercial pick-up on May 27, 2023 and Prairie Disposal will do commercial pick-up on May 25, 2023. They will return to normal pick-up schedules next week.

Municipal Services

There was no loss of municipal utilities.

Town Office and Alberta Registries will resume normal operational hours on Monday, May 29, 2023 at 8:00am.

Curbside residential garbage pick-up done on Thursday, May 25, 2023 and resume to regular collection next week.

Transfer station will be open regular hours.

Public Works will resume regular hours on May 29, 2023.

Tourist Booth RV dumping station is fully functional.



FCSS

FCSS will be open May 25 and May 26 from 9:00am to 4:00pm with resiliency support for evacuees. Regular hours will resume starting May 29, 2023.

Municipal Library

The Library will open Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 1:00pm and resume regular hours.

Swimming Pool

The Pool will resume regular scheduled programming on Friday, May 29, 2023.

Municipal Road Conditions

There may be sand and or loose gravel on some areas that was left by the removal of structure protection systems. Please be cautious while driving.

Structure Protection and Fire Smarting

During the State of Local Emergency, structures in high-risk areas were installed with sprinkler systems. Notices have been placed on those structures to notify owners.

Fire smarting took place in some yards of the high-risk areas, to remove high flammable items. Items may not have been returned to the exact previous positions. Notices have been placed on homes to notify owners.

Please be aware of highly flammable items on your property. Follow fire-smarting practices!



WILDFIRE STATUS

Although the Wildfire SWF063 is the one that was the cause of the evacuation notice to be activated, it is combined with SWF 057 and SWF 064 to be grouped as the Grizzly Complex Wildfire. They are still active northwest of town and crews remain on scene. You may continue to see fire activity northwest of town and smoky conditions will remain. These wildfires are expected to continue to burn in the months ahead.

You may wonder why you are allowed home if the fire still has activity. Fire experts have determined it is safe at this time for the public to re-enter the community. It is important to note that the conditions can change quickly, so we encourage residents to stay tuned to the Alberta Emergency Alert website/app and the Town's Facebook and website for current developments.

The Town of Swan Hills will remain on a **4 HOUR EVACUATION** alert for the foreseeable future. Residents are encouraged to keep their medication, important documents, and supplies for at least 3 days ready to go.

FIRE BAN

The Town of Swan Hills remains under a FIRE BAN and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Ban. Please see www.albertafirebans.ca for information on Provincial and Municipal Fire Bans.

Under the Town of Swan Hills fire ban:

- All existing Fire Permits are suspended (or cancelled)
- No new Fire Permits will be issued

Prohibited:

- All outdoor wood fires are banned, including wood campfires on public lands, wood campfires on private land and provincial campgrounds
- Backyard firepits, BBQ charcoal briquettes
- The use of fireworks and exploding targets
- The recreational use of off-highway vehicles (OHV) on public lands, including designated OHV trails



Allowed:

- Propane/natural gas-powered appliances. All appliances must be CSA approved.

If you see a wildfire, report it immediately by calling 310-FIRE.

AIR QUALITY AND SENSITIVITIES

The region is still experiencing heavy smoke due to the ongoing wildfires in the area and throughout the province. If you have medical concerns, take necessary precautions, and consider delaying your return if you are more comfortable doing so.

If you have any concerns about your health due to air quality, seek medical attention or call 811.

You can find the current Air Quality Health Index for Alberta at:

https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/provincial_summary/ab_e.html