

Welcome home!

Information for Meander River



***** EVACUATION ORDER ENDS *****

Evacuation alert remains

The threat of wildfire still exists in our area. You are still in a high risk area with very active wildfire. Be prepared: have a full tank of gas in your vehicle. Have a few days' worth of food and water.

Be safe

You are returning to an area that was affected by wildfire. This handout will help you know what to do and where to get help.

In addition to the fire-fighting resources, Dene Thá First Nation staff and security personnel have worked very hard to protect our communities. We are grateful to them, and to everyone who is working to get our communities up and running again. Some services may be limited at first.

You must stay out of burned areas – they can be dangerous. Please respect any restricted areas and any directions given to you by first responders or utilities workers.

Dene Tha' First Nation Chief James Ahnassay

First steps when you return home:

- A fire ban and off-highway vehicle restriction remains in effect for our communities.
- Do not allow anyone to enter or play in areas damaged by fire.
 - There are many safety risks:
 - Pits filled with ash. They can be deep and hot.
 - Burned trees and branches. They can fall over at any time.
 - Burning roots. They can cause trees to fall.
- If you smell gas, exit your home IMMEDIATELY and call AltaGas Utilities at [1-866-222-2068](tel:1-866-222-2068) (24-hour emergency line).
- Check for electrical hazards such as exposed wires. Avoid contact with damaged or fallen power lines and poles. If there are any hazards, contact ATCO at [1-800-668-5506](tel:1-800-668-5506) (24-hours).
- Wildlife may have taken shelter in your home, garage or outbuildings. Leaving a door open will allow the animals to return on their own to their natural surroundings. Call a fish and wildlife officer at 1-800-642-3800 (24 hours) for animals that appear injured or unwilling to leave.

When you walk through your door:

- Check your gas, electricity and water to make sure they are working and contact your utility providers if you need to restore service.

Electricity (ATCO)

- Electricity service has been restored to the community.
- If the electricity in your home is off, please check your main electric panel and breaker.
- Simply move any tripped switches to the 'on' position may restore electricity.
- If this doesn't restore electricity to your home, call ATCO at [1-800-668-5506](tel:1-800-668-5506) (24-hours)

Natural gas

Dene Thá Gas Utilities

- The natural gas will be on unless you turned it off before you left.
- If off, relight your appliances according to manufacturer's instructions.
- If you need help relighting your appliances, call:
 - Main office: [780-321-3761](tel:780-321-3761)
 - Everet: [780-926-7241](tel:780-926-7241)

Water: drinking and household use

- You should run one of your taps for 1-3 minutes to refresh the taste of the water.
- You can use your water as you normally would.
- If you do not have piped water and sewer services, check your water pump and sump pump in your home.

Boil water advisory – Meander River

Residents of Meander River should bring water to a full boil for at least one minute and let cool before using for drinking, brushing teeth and washing or preparing food. Water does not need to be boiled for bathing or washing clothes.

Fridges and freezers

- During the evacuation, your power supply was disrupted for about 36 hours. Some food might have spoiled in refrigerators and freezers. Some frozen food may be okay.
- Throw out food that is not in sealed packages or cans.
- Spoiled food products may have impacted your refrigerator or freezer. Clean, sanitize, and deodorize your refrigerator and freezer once you have discarded the spoiled food. To do this:
 - First unplug the refrigerator and freezer.
 - Rinse or blow out the coils and compressors on the refrigerator and freezer.
 - To clean the inside, use soap and water and then rinse with clean water.
 - Sanitize the inside with a bleach/water mixture made by mixing 1 teaspoon of ordinary household bleach for every 4 cups of water. Pre-mixed sanitizers can also be purchased locally.
 - Leave the doors of the refrigerator and freezer open to help them dry out.
 - Once the appliance is dry, reconnect the power.
 - Wait until the inside temperature of your refrigerator has reached 4°C before restocking it with food.
 - Wait until your freezer temperature is at -18°C before restocking it with food.

Garbage

- Regular pickup will be scheduled, and we don't want piled garbage to attract wild animals.
- If you have any questions about garbage, call
Harry Natannah: [587-926-5872](tel:587-926-5872)
- If you see problem wild animals and bears, call a fish and wildlife officer at 1-800-642-3800 (24 hours).

Inside cleaning

If your house has been impacted by smoke:

- Wash interior walls and hard surfaces with a steam cleaner or white vinegar.
- Wash or dry clean clothing, linens and bedding.
- Wash all movable items with a steam cleaner or microfibre cloth. This includes children's indoor toys.
- Disinfect and deodorize upholstery and fabric window treatments with spray deodorizing products available at most supermarkets. Do not use odour-masking sprays since they just cover up the problem and don't fix it.
- You can also steam items including carpets, window coverings, upholstered furniture and mattresses. Steam neutralizes the odour and carbon film left by forest fires.

Outside cleaning

- Wash all children's outside toys, play structures and recreational equipment to remove any residual smoke and ash. Replace the sand in sandboxes with clean sand.
- Wash your hands if they come in contact with ash.

Pets

- We thank the security staff who have endeavoured to look after your animals by feeding, watering, and keeping an eye out for their welfare

Air quality

People with breathing difficulties may want to delay returning home until the air quality improves. Residents should continue to review the air quality statements issued by Environment Canada at https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/provincial_summary/ab_e.html.

Schools

Please go to the Fort Vermillion School Division website for updates, <https://www.fvsd.ab.ca/>.

Emergencies

If you have an emergency, call 911.

Handy phone numbers:

Dene Tha' First Nation - https://denetha.ca/	780-321-3774
Alberta Health Link	811
Alberta Government Information Line for evacuees – https://Emergency.Alberta.ca/	310-4455
ATCO	1-800-668-5506
Fortis Alberta	310-WIRE (9473)
Trans Alta	403-267-7110
TELUS Mobility	*611 on your TELUS mobile phone or 1-866-558-2273
TELUS Internet	Toll-free 1-888-811-2323

Shaw	Toll-free 1-888-472-2222
Bell Mobility	1-800-667-0123
Bell TV	1-888-797-8686

THERE WERE NUMEROUS PEOPLE FROM OUR NATION AND FROM OUR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES WHO HELPED SUPPORT US THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT TIME. WE ARE VERY THANKFUL FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY, DONATIONS, AND THE EXTRA EFFORTS THAT THEY MADE TO HELP US THROUGH THIS TIME. PLEASE LET THEM KNOW YOUR APPRECIATION SHOULD YOU MEET THEM AGAIN.