



**City of Yellowknife
and
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
(YKDFN)
Community Re-entry Plan
Implementation
September 1, 2023**



The City of Yellowknife in partnership with YKDFN and through consultation with the Department of Environment and Climate Change's Wildfire Incident Commander, and GNWT Regional and Territorial Emergency Management Organization, are proceeding with implementation of community re-entry plans.

With the current status of the North Slave Complex Wildfires being held and not expanding beyond its current limits, and the defenses for the City and YKDFN that have been put in place since August 14, 2023, including fire breaks, sprinklering and vegetation removal, the risk has been significantly reduced. However, the North Slave Complex Wildfire is expected to remain active and unknown weather conditions could impact the degree of severity of the fire and the subsequent risks to the City of Yellowknife, Dettah and N'Dilo.

PLEASE NOTE: Implementation of the Community Re-Entry Plan may be impacted by forecast weather conditions that may increase wildfire risk. As well, GNWT Infrastructure continues to manage travel on Highway 1 given wildfire risk in the South Slave. Authorities and residents will need to be diligent in monitoring wildfire conditions and adhering to instructions after re-entry.

RE-ENTRY

Re-entry of individuals will roll out as follows:

Phases 3&4 - Essential personnel for Critical Services return/Re-establish Basic Services

- **Who?** Critical Services (Schedule A)
- **Return Date:** Monday, September 4 – Tuesday September 5, 2023
The City and YKDFN started contacting critical businesses and essential staff on August 29, 2023. Return travel of these individuals has been affected by the status of Highway 1.
- **Core Activities:** Call in staff, complete inspections and assessments, begin building and equipment maintenance, stock supplies, schedule services

Phase 5 - Community Re-entry

The City of Yellowknife and YKDFN will request that the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs replace the Evacuation Order with an Evacuation Alert effective 12:00p.m. on Wednesday, September 6, 2023.

- **General Public**
 - **Who?** General Public
 - **Return Date:** 12:00p.m. on Wednesday September 6, 2023



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Core Activities: transport to community, inspect property, cleaning and maintenance of property

Residents must all be prepared for a reduction in medical services. Please check

<https://www.nthssa.ca/en/newsroom/public-notice-nthssa-advising-residents-expect-limited-services-advance-and-after-public-re> for further information.

With the advice of Environment and Climate Change's Wildfire Incident Commander, the City of Yellowknife and YKDFN have deemed that the current status will allow for a change in the status of the Evacuation Order and the commencement of a return to the community.

POST RE-ENTRY CONTROLS

The following post re-entry controls have been identified for immediate adoption:

a) Evacuation Alert

An Evacuation Alert will be in place for the City, Dettah and N'Dilo as of September 6, 2023 at 12:00p.m. Evacuation Alerts signify that residents should be prepared to evacuate on short notice if conditions worsen. Those with special care needs including long-term health care clients and assisted living residents are recommended to continue to evacuate under the Alert. The Evacuation Alert may be lifted upon status change of the fire and full restoration of services.

b) FireSmarting

Property owners should be taking extra precaution to FireSmart their property to reduce the future risk of wildfires. in Yellowknife. Removing stored wood, brush, and other combustibles is part of responsible property ownership.

c) Fire Ban

A full fire ban will remain in place for Yellowknife, Dettah and N'Dilo). No burn permits will be issued; no fire pits will be allowed.



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RETURNING TO YOUR HOME

There has been no reported fire related damage to infrastructure and property within Yellowknife, Dettah and N'Dilo. It's predicted that no or limited emergency repair and recovery activities should be required by residents and businesses. However, several activities and conditions should be considered to ensure a safe return.

This includes:

Environmental Health

- There may be some additional risks to those with sensitivities to smoke
- Air handling units may need to be serviced
- Interior and exterior surfaces may need to be cleaned or sanitized

Waste Handling

- Spoiled food should be disposed of securely and in accordance with the City's instruction. Note that an increase in bear activity has been reported.



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Schedule A – Essential Services

- Health Services
- Pharmacy
- Transportation
- Municipal/Band Critical Services
- Airport
- Utilities
 - Power
 - Heat
 - Water/Sewer
 - Garbage
- Fuel Services
- Child Care Providers for essential staff
- Indigenous Elder Services
- Grocers