

## **RETURNING HOME AFTER A WILDFIRE EAGLE BLUFF (K52318) Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What should I expect from the Eagle Bluff wildfire in the coming days?**

The Eagle Bluff wildfire (K52318) is still considered to be an active wildfire. While the BC Wildfire Service is confident that it is safe for members of the community to return to their homes at the present time, you may still see smoke/ and or open flames in areas of the fire, along with crews, aircraft, and heavy equipment.

### **What helped me get home?**

The BC Wildfire Service, in partnership with the U.S. Incident Management Team managing the fire on the U.S. side of the border and a large team of Structure Protection personnel from communities throughout the province, conducted a series of planned ignitions. These ignition operations covered approximately 1,800 hectares to remove unburnt fuel in areas with steep and rocky terrain that posed a safety risk to crews and heavy equipment. The ignition operations played an integral role in securing the fire perimeter on the fire's northeast, north and west flanks.

### **What should I do if I see a new wildfire?**

If you suspect a new wildfire, please immediately call our reporting line at 1-800-663-5555 or \*5555 on a cell phone, or use the “Report a Fire” function on the BC Wildfire Service mobile app.

### **What hazards remain on an active wildfire?**

The Eagle Bluff wildfire is still an active wildfire and work site. This means the following hazards may be present:

- **Heavy equipment and chainsaw operators:** Heavy equipment and chainsaw operators can't hear or see you when operating equipment. Never approach a running machine or an area where a chainsaw operator is working.
- **Ash pits:** Deep, intensely burning stumps and tree roots may result in hot ashpits underground that can lead to severe burns if you step or fall into one.
- **Falling trees:** Drought and burnt-out tree roots cause unstable trees that may fall at any time, especially if it's windy.

**For the safety of you and firefighters, please stay clear!**

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## How can I help?

- Report suspected wildfires—about 40 percent of new fires are reported by the public.
- Avoid active work sites where firefighting activities are going on, so we can do our jobs as safely and effectively as possible.
- FireSmart your home! Simple, inexpensive things such as keeping the firewood pile away from your house, clearing gutters and storing flammables like propane tanks away from structures can make a big difference—for you and us. If you've prepared ahead of time, it will help protect your property. It also means firefighting personnel can focus on fighting the wildfire rather than, for example, moving your woodpile.

## How can I find out more about wildfires?

The BC Wildfire Service has an interactive map at [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca), where you can find information about all active wildfires in the province.

For questions about the Eagle Bluff wildfire, give the Incident Management Team a call at 778-471-9484 or email us at [BCWS.EagleBluff.Info@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCWS.EagleBluff.Info@gov.bc.ca).

For questions about other wildfires in the Penticton Zone or the Kamloops Fire Centre region, call the Kamloops Fire Centre Information team at 250-554-5965 or email [KFCINFO@gov.bc.ca](mailto:KFCINFO@gov.bc.ca).

## The BC Wildfire Service damaged my property while fighting fires. What do I do?

If you notice damages or impacts to your property you think are caused by the BC Wildfire Service and/or its contractors, you can make a compensation claim. For more information, email [BCWSClaims@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCWSClaims@gov.bc.ca) or write to:

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