



Hay River Community Reentry Plan Execution

May 24, 2023

The Town of Hay River through consultation with the Department of Environment and Climate Change's Wildfire Incident Commander, the Community Emergency Management Committee, and GNWT Regional and Territorial Emergency Management Organizations, has approved the execution of the Town of Hay River's community reentry plan.

In accordance with the plan, the following re-entry sequence and activities are to be applied:

Stage 1 – Restoration of Services

Membership: Essential Services (Schedule A)

Return Date: Wednesday May 24th, 12:00pm

Core Activities: call in staff, complete inspections and assessments, begin building and equipment maintenance, stock supplies, schedule services

Stage 2 – Community Reentry

a) General Public

Membership: General Public with no Special Health

Return Date: Thursday May 25th, 12:00pm

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

b) Public with Special Health Needs

Membership: Public that requires long term care, assisted living, chronic illness treatment (ie. Dialysis). Those that require public shelter services. (Schedule B)

Return Date: After removal of Evacuation Alert and full resumption of community health services

Core Activities: Shelter in locations arranged or approved by health services

- Special transportation systems available (ie. Air ambulance)
- Homeless shelter reopened

The Town of Hay River has deemed that established and post reentry fire management controls will allow for a suspension of the Evacuation Order and the commencement of a return to the community. However, the KFN area wildfire is expected to be active throughout the summer and unknown weather conditions will impact the degree of severity of the fire and the subsequent risks to the Town of Hay River. Authorities and residents will need to be diligent in monitoring wildfire conditions and adhering to instructions after re-entry.



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Post Rentry Controls

The following post-reentry controls have been identified for immediate adoption.

a) Evacuation Alert

An Evacuation Alert will be in place for the core of the community between Vale Island and Mile 5 areas. 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 essential services.

b) Fire Smarting

Property owners should be taking extra precaution to firesmart their property to reduce the risk of spread of fire in Hay River. Removing stored wood, brush, and other combustibles is part of responsible property ownership.

c) Fire Ban

A full fire ban will remain in place. No burn permits will be issued; no fire pits will be allowed.

Returning to Your Home

There has been no reported fire related damage to infrastructure and property within Hay River. 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 Town instruction. Note that an increase in bear activity has been reported.

Utilities

- Hot and cold water systems should be flushed for 5 minutes before use. There may be some initial discoloration



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- Contact local heating service providers if any concerns with operation of heating services

Schedule A – Essential Services

Includes:

1. Health Services
2. Pharmacy
3. Reception Services (Transportation)
4. Town Emergency Services
5. Airport
6. Utilities
 - a. Power
 - b. Heat
 - c. Water/Sewer
 - d. Garbage
7. Fuel Services
8. School Board / Day Care
9. Grocers
10. Hoteliers / Shelter

Schedule B – Special Health Needs

1. Assisted Living / Long Term Care
2. Supported Living
3. Dialysis
4. Chronic Conditions
5. Shelter Clients

*Contact Hay River Health and Social Services if questions on membership and support service availability