



RDCO Wildfire Recovery Plan Progress Report

January 31, 2022

Short Term Objectives

These initial short-term objectives were initiated during the response phase, and primarily focused on:

- establishing worker and public safety for re-entry and beyond
- establishing scope and scale of impacts on residents and facilitating longer term supports
- establishing scope and scale of impacts on local economy, critical infrastructure, and the environment, and identifying recovery needs
- meeting the immediate needs of residents as the transition from response to recovery takes place
- identifying and reducing hazards

Short term recovery objectives completed to date are:

Section	Objective	Strategy	Tactic	Progress to Date
People & Community	Household Support	Provided eligible evacuees who lost their primary residence with short term accommodation, private billeting, and food support.	Emergency Management BC (EMBC) to provide Emergency Support Services (ESS), Canadian Red Cross to aid.	EMBC provided Emergency Support Services (ESS) for evacuated residents who were without access to other sources of support including accommodation and food vouchers. Canadian Red Cross provided wildfire support by calling 1-800-863-6582 or web site: https://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/2021-british-columbia-fires
People & Community	Establish Resiliency/Recovery Centre	Provided coordination of Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery initiatives	Established a Wildfire Resiliency/Recovery Centre and Hire a manager.	RDCO established a Resiliency/Recovery Centre and hired a Manager Sept. 20/2021 through EAF approval by EMBC.
People & Community	Mental Health and Wellness	Established trauma support through existing services.	Contracted Case workers, needs assessments & referral process. Red Cross Additional Resources.	RDCO hired two Case Workers through EAF approved by EMBC, to support residents requesting mental health and wellness support with referrals to BC Crisis Line, BC 211, EMBC and Red Cross Additional Resources www.redcross.ca ;
People & Community	Recovery Team Wellness	Provided disaster psychosocial support as required.	Local Counselling Resources made available in Vernon and Kelowna.	Counselling Support made available: Family Resource Centre Counselling and Family Services Email: info@vernonfrc.ca Canadian Mental Health Association Email: kelowna@cmha.bc.ca

People & Community	Public Communication and Information Sharing	Utilized website & social media.	RDCO PIO to establish methods and key messages.	Communications were established; RDCO website, email, social media; (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube Live Stream Event): www.rdco/recovery
People & Community	Public 1-800 number & email	Established dedicated phone number for core hours.	RDCO staff to monitor Email and phone calls. The Canadian Red Cross to provide 1-800 number.	RDCO dedicated staff to monitor phone and email requests channeled through a Recovery Email: recovery@rdco.com RDCO Phonenumber: 250-469-6111 Canadian Red Cross Contact Centre: 1-800-863-6582.
Housing	Structural and Non-Structural Hazards in wood frame, masonry, and concrete structures.	Conducted Rapid Damage Assessments (RDA) to address re-entry requirements.	Regional District Inspection Services and Engineering Services staff conduct RDA.	1,316 Rapid Damage Assessments completed by RDCO staff; 341 placards mounted following the BC Housing Rapid Damage Assessment Field Manual guidelines: -74 Red (Unsafe for occupancy or entry) -7 Yellow (Restricted Use where a hazardous condition exists or is believed to exist) -260 Green (Inspected and no apparent hazard is found although minor repairs may be required).
Economic Recovery	Scope & Scale of Community Impacts	Conducted impact assessment study.	Employment, Business & Economic Development	BC Economic Development Association (BCEDA) Wildfire resources made available for Wildfire Impacted Individuals & Businesses. www.bceda.ca
Critical Infrastructure	Site Safety	Assessed threats to workers & general public on Crown Lands and Municipal Parks	Danger Tree Assessors and Fallers.	Danger/hazard trees within a BC Hydro corridor were addressed by the utility, Highway Right of Ways by MOTI, Crown Land for Wildfire Crew Safety by BC Wildfire Service, Trees deemed a safety risk to the general public were addressed by the RDCO, with 139 Danger Trees assessed and felled by contractors under hire through EAF approved by EMBC.

Critical Infrastructure	Scope & Scale of Infrastructure Damage	Assessment of RDCO assets including Water Distribution System.	Have RDCO staff evaluate assets	The RDCO hired an engineering firm who completed an assessment, conducted a few repairs, flushed the system tested, and met Interior Health Authority potable water requirements resulting in the "Do Not Use" advisory being rescinded on Nov 10, 2021.
		Assess other Utilities.	Utility owners to assess their assets.	BC Hydro, Telus, Fortis and the Private Estamont Water System have been assessed. The Estamont Water System is a privately owned and being repaired by the owner. The RDCO provided potable water to the impacted residents at the Fire Hall and will continue until the water system is repaired and approved by IHA for safe domestic use.
Environment	Fire Impact Assessments for spring freshet	Assessments of Bridge and Culverts.	Owners – MOTI and FLNRORD.	Owners, (MOTI and FLNRORD) conducted preliminary assessments with the replacement of the running deck by MOTI of one bridge on Westside Road.
Environment	Fire Impact Assessments for long term slope stability	Assessment of soil, slope stability and debris flow.	FLNRORD to conduct PWNHRA preliminary assessment and rehabilitate fire guards.	FLNRORD completed preliminary Post Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Analysis assessment October 14, 2021. FLNRORD engineering started to rehabilitate fire guards and applying grass seed to reduce erosion. More work to follow in the spring and summer 2022.
Environment	Hazardous Debris Removal	Identified fridge and appliance recycling and sorting needs, landfill use planning, and removal.	Contractors & RDCO staff.	Fridge collection was established at a MOTI gravel pit and was completed Sept. 22/21 through EAF approved by EMBC. Recycled materials were sorted, other waste was transferred to landfills. Empty appliances were disposed of for free at either the Glenmore Landfill and the Westside Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre.
Environment	Salvageable Sorting and Debris Removal	Initial Assessment, site cleanup, sorting and removal.	Non-Profit Organizations: Samaritans Purse and Christian Disaster Relief.	Samaritan's Purse volunteers completed their site clean-up, sorting for impacted residents requesting their services on October 10, 2021. Christian Disaster Relief continues to provide one off requests as required.

Medium Term Objectives

Medium term objectives typically start to appear as needs assessments are completed and re-entry has occurred.

Medium term recovery objectives completed to date are:

Section	Objective	Strategy	Tactic	Progress to Date
People & Community	Mental health & Wellness	Ensuring that those who are struggling with loss and the heaviness of the rebuilding / recovery process are adequately supported with mental health	Emergency Support Services (ESS) and Canadian Red Cross	ESS support provided and extended to November 30, 2021. BC 211, BC Crisis Line, Canadian Red Cross (1-800-863-6582) coping with stress and specialized crisis lines, Mental Health and Substance Use Support in BC call 8-1-1. Links provided on RDCO website: www.rdco/recovery
People & Community	Household Support	Make available additional food, clothing, and household goods	Non-Government Organization Support	Central Okanagan Food Bank and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ARDA). Links provided on RDCO website: www.rdco/recovery
People & Community	Capacity Needs and Assessments	Evacuee & impacted resident interviews to identify unmet needs.	Hire Case Workers.	2 Case Workers hired on Oct. 1/21, completed 42 Capacity Needs and Assessments for residents who were impacted by the wildfire, spoke to an additional 16 residents who provided information did not want to complete an assessment, and reached out to 29 residences who have not returned phone calls or emails. Their work winding up and planned completion by Mid-February.
Housing	Legacy, illegal construction (unpermitted) or grandfathered properties	Manage the increased volume of Permit Applications to provide expertise and to strengthen Community Service Department.	Administration Support staff and Building Inspectors to assist with the workload.	1 Administration Support staff and 2 additional Building Inspectors initiated Nov. 4/21 for 3 Months or until debris removal is complete, through EAF approved by EMBC.

Housing	Relief of Garbage, Recycling and Water utility Fees	Waive garbage and recycling fees for those with destroyed primary structures.	RDCO staff to process applications.	Those affected residents that have pre-paid for October, November, and December 2021; Garbage and Recycling fees were refunded for those months.
		Waive water user fees for properties with primary structures destroyed, and water turned off.	RDCO staff process applications	User fees not applied until approved building permits issued or requested by the owner.
Housing	Property owners request reduced taxes for time of damage resulting from the wildfire.	Contact BC Assessment to help determine their property's accurate status.	Property owners to contact BC Assessment Authority to confirm status of their impacted	Property owners requested to report any damage or loss to assist BC Assessment in having an accurate assessment of the property, which could impact changes to the 2022 property taxes.
Housing	Insurance Advisory	Insurance advisory assistance.	Canadian Red Cross case workers and Insurance Bureau of Canada	Residential insurance assistance offered by Canadian Red Cross through case workers. Insurance Bureau of Canada - is also providing information to assist insurance policy holders.
Housing	Land use zoning conflicts	Property owners required to comply with current provincial and Municipal regulations e.g., 15m riparian setbacks	RDCO Inspections & Planning Services	Property Owners may be required to apply for a Development Variance Permit. Step-by Step Building Permit and Demolition process guide and Building Permit application checklist. See RDCO Rebuilding and redevelopment web site link www.rdco/recovery
Economic Recovery	Determine scope & scale of impacts	Ensuring that there is support for home based and small business within the Wildfire impacted area	BC Economic Development Association	BC Economic Development Association -Economic Recovery and Resiliency toolkit for local leaders and economic development. 2020_BCEDA_Economic_Recovery_Resiliency_Toolkit_FINAL.pdf Local Economic Recovery and Restart Toolkit. 2021_Local_Economic_Recovery_and_Restart_Toolkit_Fillable_Final.pdf (bceda.ca)

Critical Infrastructure	Facilitating the rebuilding process	Waive Demolition Permit Fees and Issues Permits	Have RDCO staff process.	Board approved Sept. 27/21 waiving fees for Demolition permits for residents affected by the fire.
		Waive Temporary Building Permit Fees	Have RDCO staff process.	Board approved Sept. 27/21 waiving fees for Temporary Building permits.
		Extend use of recreational vehicles as Temporary buildings to two years	Have RDCO staff process.	Board approved Sept. 27/21 Temporary Building permit use of a recreational vehicle as temporary dwelling from one to two years, on a property that is actively under post-wildfire construction.
Environment	Fire Impact Assessments for site safety – workers & public re-entry	Address "Restricted Use or Unsafe" from the Rapid Damage Assessments	Contracted Qualified Professionals	Danger/hazard trees within a BC Hydro corridor were addressed by the utility, Highway Right of Ways by MOTI, Crown Land for Wildfire Crew Safety by BC Wildfire Service, RDCO jurisdiction by qualified professionals.
Environment	Wildfire Impact Assessments for long term slope stability	Soil & slope stability and debris flow assessments	FLNRORD and RDCO	FLNRORD completed a Post Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Analysis (PWNHRA) detailed assessment January 14, 2022. RDCO completed Environmental Hazard Assessment January 28, 2022, through EAF approved by EMBC, and presented to the Board Feb 10, 2022.
	Wildfire Mitigation	Erosion Control	FLNRORD – Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District	FLNRORD grass seeded fire guards by air (helicopter) and ground fall 2021, with more work scheduled for the spring and summer 2022.
Environment	Debris Assessments	Identify debris volume, type, and location.	RDCO Contractors & Staff	The RDCO will conduct a street-by-street inventory of debris to be removed within the community by March 31, 2022.
Environment	Environmental contamination is remediated	Environmental Assessments	Contracted Qualified Professionals	RDCO conducted an Environmental Hazard Assessment, presented to the Board Feb. 10. 2022

Environment	Debris Management Program to also benefit Landfill Life expectancy	Concrete and Wood Waste disposal coordination	RDCO, Canadian Red Cross and Contractors	Concrete disposal location for foundations and contaminated soil is being established by the RDCO for North Westside residents available in February 2022. The Canadian Red Cross New Debris Management Program will support eligible residents without or who have partial insurance. See RDCO Recovery webpage for updates. www.rdco/recovery
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Long Term Objectives

If done effectively in the early stages of response and recovery planning, any long-term objectives will have been managed and mitigated by other organizations:

Section	Objective	Strategy	Tactic	Progress to Date
People & Community	Long Term support through external agencies	Offer external agencies able to provide long term support	Existing social support programs offered through external agencies (Such as Social Development and Social Innovations)	Canadian Red Cross is providing residents with multiple supports being offered: 1-800-863-6583 http://www.redcross.ca/2021bcfires
People & Community	Best Practices Lessons Learned	Review process undertaken to address Wildfire Resiliency / Recovery	Resiliency / Recovery Centre to debrief and confirm best practices from lessons learned.	RDCO to schedule time by spring/summer to complete a debrief of what worked well, what was difficult, what to improve.
Housing and Community Services	Development approvals process improvement strategy	Identify policies that need to be updated and/or created to expedite services and focus on Sendai Framework "Build Back Better"	Community Services to review existing policies to address future demands and explore rebuild policies	RDCO Community Services to complete UBCM funded review for adoption of more efficient development approval practices by spring/summer 2022

Housing	Remediation and rebuilding supported by well-established organizations.	Insurance company, NGO's, philanthropy organizations.	Establish coordinated approach to address impacted properties with each agency.	Samaritan's Purse Canada: 1-800-663-6500 Islamic Relief Canada: 604-649-2358 Christian Disaster Relief 250-309-0190 Mennonite Disaster Services: 1-866-261-1274
Economic Recovery	Economic Recovery developed regionally	Confirm Regional economic development organizations	Establish economic development priorities based on regional impacts.	Under development through established RDCO Economic Development Team.
Critical Infrastructure	Re-establish critical infrastructure in a coordinated manner.	Provincial and Local Government to take lead role for non-private infrastructure	Private landowners and contractors understand policy and work in collaboration with Provincial and Regional Gov't	Critical infrastructure has been re-established. The RDCO and MOTI need to maintain and monitor going forward.
Environment	Communities to be more Wildfire resilient	Local Government follow FireSmart principles.	Communities and citizens adopt and conduct FireSmart practices to mitigate the negative impacts of wildfire to assets on public and private property.	RDCO Board of Directors approved Nov. 22/21 support for staff to apply for FireSmart - Community Resiliency Investment Program funding through UBCM.