

KTC Emergency Services Newsletter



JULY 2025

Message from the KTC Emergency Services Coordinators (ESCs)

Thank You to International Firefighters: KTC Region Wildfires 2025

In the midst of the 2025 wildfire crisis, the Loon River First Nation, Peerless Trout First Nation, and communities across the KTC region received crucial support from brave firefighters and emergency personnel from around the world. Their expertise, courage, and solidarity made a real difference for our families and lands.

Firefighters and support teams from several countries joined Canadian crews on the front lines, including:

United States

- Over 150 U.S. wildfire professionals, including crews, air tankers, and incident management teams, were deployed to Alberta to bolster local response and provide critical resources when needed most.

Australia

- A 96-member Australian contingent from the New South Wales Rural Fire Service traveled to Alberta in June 2025, serving a five-week deployment to support Canadian teams battling active fires.

New Zealand

- A specialist crew arrived from New Zealand in early July, with more support anticipated as the season progressed, bringing global knowledge and specialized expertise to the Alberta wildfire effort.

Costa Rica

- Firefighters from Costa Rica arrived in Alberta in June, working side by side with local and international counterparts to help safeguard communities.

These teams joined a broader international effort, with support and equipment also mobilized from U.S. border states such as Oregon and Idaho and through international agreements that allow for rapid mutual aid during severe fire seasons.

Our Gratitude

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every firefighter and emergency responder who came from near and far to help our communities in a time of crisis. Your courage, skill, and selflessness will never be forgotten. We are especially grateful to the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, and all who offered support. Because of your efforts, our children, elders, and families are safer today. May we continue to support recovery, care for one another, and uphold the spirit of international unity that carried us through.

Ongoing Events

- Tabletop training exercises with AEMA & Band Leadership.
- Census Data Collection
- Education & Engagement

Next Month's Events

August 6, 2025

- Treaty Days - WFLFN#459

August 19-22, 2025

- Treaty Days - PTFN#478

August 20-23, 2025

- Treaty Days - LRFN#476

August 25 - 29, 2025

- Treaty Days - LLB#453

This Month's Events

July 01, 2025

- Canada Day

July 17, 2025

- Peerless Trout FN Returned Home from Wildfire Evacuation in May 2025

July 21-25, 2025

- Woodland Cree FN Offices closed for Spiritual Week
- Lubicon Lake Band Offices closed for Staff Retreat

Did you know?

In Alberta's record 2023 season, just 13 wildfires accounted for 36.8% of all the area burned—out of roughly 2.2 million hectares scorched province-wide.



Find ME!

Scan this QR code with your phone to access the KTC Emergency Services on Facebook!



WILDFIRE



It's been an incredibly challenging summer for our communities, and we want to take a moment to reflect on recent events, provide a current update, and—above all—remind everyone that our resilience and solidarity remain strong.

At the end of May, fast-moving wildfires swept through northern Alberta, forcing urgent evacuation orders for Peerless Trout First Nation, Loon River Cree Nation, and neighboring communities. On the night of May 28 and into May 29, evacuation alerts were issued with little warning as fires approached within 10 km of Loon Lake and threatened our homes. Reception Centres were quickly set up in Slave Lake and Edmonton, and more than 1,400 community members—including children and elders—were displaced, facing weeks away from home in hotels and temporary accommodations.

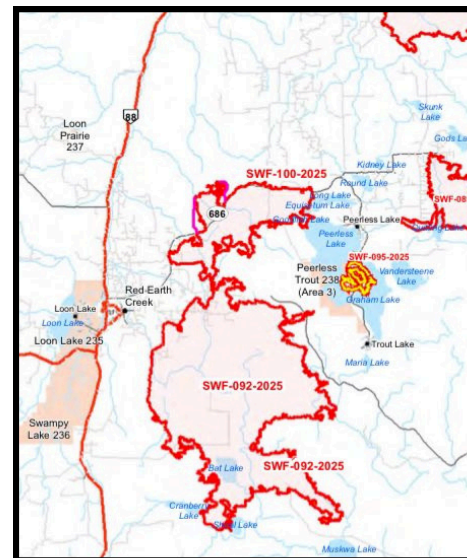
The fires—part of the Red Earth East Complex—were exceptionally difficult to contain, due to dry conditions and high winds. Fire crews, helicopters, tankers, and heavy equipment operators worked around the clock, fortifying containment lines and providing crucial protection to structures and land.

Our Community Response

Amid chaos and uncertainty, our community spirit shone brightly as volunteers, leaders, and the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council ensured evacuees received food, shelter, and vital support. Local organizations, provincial partners, and the Loon River and Peerless Trout teams provided activities and care to help lift spirits. Tribal leadership remains committed to supporting the emotional and social well-being of our members through this challenging time.

Where Things Stand Now

- **Loon River Cree Nation:** The evacuation order was lifted late June after nearly a month away, and families have started returning under a two-hour evacuation alert. Conditions are still dry, and everyone must remain ready to leave if the fire situation changes. Support for returning families and ongoing wildfire management remains a top priority.
- **Peerless Trout First Nation:** As of mid-July, Peerless and Trout Lake communities remain on a two-hour evacuation alert, and not all residents have been able to return home. The area continues to face wildfire threats, and decisions about full re-entry depend on weather conditions and containment progress.
- **Region-wide:** As of July 17, 2025, multiple communities in northern Alberta, including Red Earth Creek, Loon River First Nation, and Peerless Trout, remain on high alert as 18 wildfires continue burning out of control across the forest region. Fire bans are in effect, and everyone is urged to stay informed and prepared.



Looking Ahead

We know the journey isn't over. Recovery will take time: some areas have suffered significant damage and will need rebuilding, while everyone continues to grapple with uncertainty. But as always, our focus is on supporting each other—practically and emotionally.

Thank You

To everyone who has stepped up—volunteers, leaders, neighboring communities, and government partners—thank you. We encourage everyone to keep checking in on each other, follow updates from local leaders and emergency staff, and look after your mental health. Our strength and unity will carry us through.

We are strong. We are resilient. We are in this together

FIRESMART



IT'S STILL SUMMER!

This July has been a scorcher—and with high temperatures comes elevated fire risk. As we head toward fall, remember these FireSmart tips for camping and backyard burning to keep your family and community safe.



Safe Camping Fires

When you're out under the stars, always use a designated fire pit or build yours at least 10 metres from tents, trees, shrubs, and overhanging branches.

Before lighting:

- Clear away leaves, pine needles, and other dry debris in a 2 metre radius to expose bare soil.
- Keep a bucket of water and a shovel within arm's reach.
- Never leave your fire unattended—even a quick wood-gathering trip can allow sparks to escape.

Put it out completely before sleeping or leaving camp: drown the flames, stir the ashes until cold, then douse again.

Did you know even a single spark can travel 60 metres on a windy night and ignite surrounding vegetation?

Responsible Backyard Burning

As grasses and leaves dry out, backyard burn piles can quickly get out of hand. Before you light up:

1. Check local bylaws & fire bans—permits may be required, and certain materials (treated lumber, plastics, rubber) are prohibited.
2. Site your burn on bare ground at least 15 metres from any structure, fence, or combustible vegetation.
3. Stay on guard: keep water or a fire extinguisher at the ready; never burn on windy days.
4. Cool it off: once the fire dies, thoroughly soak the ashes and stir to ensure no embers remain.

Did you know?

Backyard burn piles account for over 10% of human-caused wildfires in Alberta each year.



"Stay safe, stay ready!"

Enjoy the rest of summer—and beyond—with peace of mind. By following these FireSmart practices, you'll protect your property, loved ones, and the forests we all treasure.

FIRESMART HOME ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

KTC Emergency Services is beginning an ongoing FireSmart Home Assessment Program (FHA) in all five KTC member nations. Your KTC Emergency Service Coordinators have completed advanced FireSmart training and will come and assess your home and property free of charge.

The FHA is a voluntary educational opportunity for KTC community members who want to better understand and mitigate wildfire risk at their homes, cabins, or businesses. An advanced FireSmart Home Assessment will highlight risk areas and recommend specific actions and upgrades residents can make to increase their property's resilience to wildfire**

For more information or to get your property assessed:

Call KTC Emergency Services @ (587) 408-9014

****DISCLAIMER** The KTC FHA is solely an educational program:**

If the assessment indicates that your home would benefit from upgrades, renovations, or repairs, it is **NOT** the responsibility of your local housing department to repair or upgrade it. Additionally, the results of a FHA will **NOT** affect your home insurance rates or premiums.



Completing FireSmart™ measures can significantly reduce the risk of wildfire damaging your home.

PACK YOUR GO-BAG BINGO

Tick the items you pack in your go-bag.
When you get five in a row, shout "BINGO!"

 1. WATER	 FLASHLIGHT	 FIRST AID KIT	 RADIO
 2. MAP	 WHISTLE	 MEDICATIONS	 CLOTHES
 PHONE CHARGER	 DOCUMENTS	 MULTI-TOOL	 TISSUES
 BLANKET	 MONEY	 BATTERIES	 GLOVES

CHECK LIST



EMERGENCY EVACUATION – ITEMS TO GATHER

of Vehicles _____ Drivers _____ Trailers _____ Motorcycles _____

15-minute warning/Primary Essentials:

- ☐ Important Documents:
 - IDs (Passports, driver's license)
 - Insurance papers (home, health, car)
 - Medical records, medication
 - Birth certificate, deeds, etc.
 - Emergency contact list, (hard copy)
- ☐ Medication & Medical Essentials:
 - Prescription meds (few days' supply)
 - Inhalers, EpiPens, Glasses/Contacts
- ☐ Cash: Small bills and coins
- ☐ Payment Cards: Debit/Credit/Gift Cards
- ☐ Communication: Cell phone(s), charger(s), Power bank
- ☐ Keys: House, car, safe
- ☐ Children Essentials: (if applicable)
 - Diapers, Formula, Baby Food, Medication
 - Favorite toy/blanket
- ☐ Pet Essentials: (if applicable)
 - Carrier(s), Leash
 - Pet Food, Water Bowl, Medication
 - Favorite toy/blanket
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

1-hour warning/Tertiary Essentials:

- ☐ 3-day food, special diet items
- ☐ Address book, phone list
- ☐ Battery radio, extra batteries
- ☐ Computer, Monitor, Laptop, USBs/Digital Storage Unit
- ☐ Financial, medical data; Wills, Powers of Attorney
- ☐ Genealogy records, files
- ☐ Gloves, dust mask for smoke
- ☐ Ice cooler w/ ice, food, drinks
- ☐ Jewelry & most-valuable personal possessions
- ☐ Other meds, supplements
- ☐ Paper plates, cups, utensils
- ☐ Personal property list, photos & appraisals, documentation
- ☐ Pet food, dishes, bedding, litter
- ☐ Pillows, sleeping bags, blankets
- ☐ School items, homework, pen, pencil, books, calculator, paper
- ☐ Take or safeguard guns, ammo
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

30-Minute warning/Secondary Essentials:

- (all the above, plus)
- ☐ Basic clothing & Personal Items:
 - 3+ Changes of clothing, Underwear, Socks
 - Weather-appropriate items (Jacket, hat, rain gear, shoes/boots)
 - ☐ Hygiene Supplies:
 - Toothbrush/Toothpaste
 - Toilet paper, hand wipes, hand sanitizer, soap
 - Feminine hygiene products (pads, tampons)
 - ☐ Food & Water:
 - Snacks (non-perishable: Protein bars, nuts)
 - Water Bottles/ Gal. jugs of drinking water
 - ☐ Emergency Tools:
 - Flashlight (with Batteries)
 - Multi-tool/pocketknife
 - Whistle
 - First aid kit/ medical items
 - ☐ Sentimental/irreplaceable items: Family photos, heirlooms (if small & easy to carry)
 - ☐ _____
 - ☐ _____

2-hour+ warning/Quaternary Essentials:

- ☐ Albums, photos, home videos
- ☐ Camping equipment, tent
- ☐ Family photos on display
- ☐ Heirlooms, art, collections
- ☐ Historical/Military decorations, records, mementoes, plaques
- ☐ Journals, diaries, letters
- ☐ Luggage (packed)
- ☐ Primary cosmetics
- ☐ Secondary Vehicles, RV
- ☐ Valuable items, cameras
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

MISCELLANEOUS:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

IMPORTANT NUMBERS



Alberta 211 – 24/7 support

Call: 2-1-1
Text: 'info' to 211
visit: ab.211.ca



GoA Active Emergency Updates

Call centre: 310-4455
(available in 200+ languages)
Monday to Friday
8:15 am to 4:30 pm
Visit:
alberta.ca/emergency



Alberta Supports

Contact Centre:
1-877-644-9992
Visit:
<https://myalbertasupports.alberta.ca/>

Hope for Wellness Helpline

Hope for Wellness 24/7 Hotline

Call: 1-855-242-3310
Visit:
www.hopeforwellness.ca



Alberta Health Services

24-hour Mental Health

Help Line: 1-877-303-2642

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/amh/amh.aspx>



24-hour Emergency income support

Call: 1-866-644-5135
(outside Edmonton area)
780-644-5135 (Edmonton)
Visit:
alberta.ca/emergency-financial-assistance



Alberta Health Services

24-hour Health Link

Call: 8-1-1
Text: "Heat"/ "Wildfire" to 88111

Visit:
MyHealth.Alberta.ca/811



Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic (AIVCC)

Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic

Call: 1-888-342-4822
Visit: aivcc.ca/



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Call: 1-800-232-7301
Visit: canada.ca/nihb

Thank You for Your Support!!



KTC EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2025 ONLINE CENSUS

EVACUATION PRE-REGISTRY

USE YOUR CELL CAMERA
TO SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR DIRECT ACCESS!*

* If the camera is unable to
read the QR Code, Please
download a QR scanning app.



"15 MINUTES TODAY, PREPARED FOR TOMORROW!"

Contact us

**KTC Emergency
Services**

TOLL- FREE NUMBER:
(587) 415-1818, ext 301

DIRECT LINE:
(587) 408-9014

Proudly Serving our Nations!

