BALD RANGE WILDFIRE RECOVERY

RDOS Recovery Newsletter

November 16, 2026

This recovery newsletter update is part of ongoing efforts by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) to support residents who were impacted by the wildfire, providing resources and information about recovery activities and programs, now and into the future.

New financial assistance now available from CFSOS

The Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen (CFSOS) has opened applications for the first phase of financial assistance through its SOS Wildfire Response Fund. These recovery grants are available to households whose primary residence was destroyed by wildfire and who are uninsured or underinsured.

Applications are open now until December 11, 2026 – applications will be reviewed as they are received, allowing funding to reach eligible households sooner.

The SOS Wildfire Response Fund will be distributed in three phases, allowing the Foundation to provide assistance now while ensuring resources remain available as new and longer-term needs emerge.

LEARN MORE HERE | APPLY FOR A GRANT HERE

New Canadian Red Cross support to small businesses and not-for-profits

Starting Monday, November 16, the Canadian Red Cross will be offering support for small businesses and not-for-profit organizations impacted by the Bald Range wildfire.
Eligible applicants may receive a one-time lump sum of $2,000. This funding is to cover damage or loss to physical items used by the business or organization that is not covered by insurance or other disaster assistance programs.
View more details on requirements and applying here or on the Red Cross webpage.

RED CROSS FLYER HERE | WEBPAGE HERE

Hope for the Holidays – a Children's Open House

The Peachland Lions Club is hosting Hope for the Holidays, a special Christmas event for families with children 18 years and younger who experienced a total loss in the Bald Range wildfire. Children are invited to enjoy crafts, activities and a visit from Santa! And Santa won't be arriving empty-handed – the Lions will have a special surprise under the tree.
Can't attend? Please register anyway! Families who are unable to attend can indicate this when registering, and organizers will arrange to deliver their Christmas surprise.
Registration deadline: November 23
When: Sunday, December 6, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Where: Summerland Waterfront Resort and Spa
Click here to register – one registration per family

INVITATION LETTER HERE | FLYER HERE | REGISTER HERE

Supporting seniors through wildfire recovery

For older adults who have lost their homes or been displaced by the wildfire, recovery can also mean adjusting to the loss of familiar routines and everyday community connections. These changes can contribute to feelings of isolation, particularly for those who are now living away from their usual neighbourhood. Staying connected can make a meaningful difference. If you are a senior experiencing these challenges, we encourage you to:

- **Access free, one-on-one support** – by calling Kelly Dixon (403-614-8848) or Kandy White (236-622-2000) or emailing recovery@samaritan.ca. Kelly or Kandy will meet you at a time and location that works for you, and offer continued recovery help.
- **Stay informed by signing up for and reading this recovery newsletter** – we share upcoming events, resources and supports that may be helpful to you.
- **Reconnect with others through local gatherings and activities** – including the opportunities listed below.

We encourage community members to check in on older neighbours, friends and family members who may be having a difficult time, and help connect them with available support.

Local activities and opportunities for seniors

- **YMCA Senior Social** on Mondays 10:30 am-11:30 am at Giants Head Branch, September 14 – December 14. Free, drop-in (no registration required) – more info here or call 250-864-7156.
- **Better at Home by OneSky** provides non-medical support for independence, like friendly visits, grocery shopping, or transportation. Call 250-487-3376 or email seniors.info@oneskycommunity.com. More info here.
- **Out and About by OneSky** offers a monthly program of social events for seniors – email outandabout@oneskycommunity.com or call 250-488-4034. More info here.
- **NeighbourLink Summerland** offers a variety of programs that are well loved by seniors in Summerland. Find more info here, or call 250-404-4673.

Important reminders for all impacted residents

Consider completing an **information sharing/release form** – this is an important way for the RDOS to connect you to funding assistance opportunities and other recovery resources and support.
View the Information Release form here.

If your property has wildfire debris, we want to hear from you – every property is different, and hearing from property owners will help us understand cleanup needs. Please contact debrismanager@summerland.ca or 236-915-2002.

Free one-on-one recovery support now available – a Recovery Specialist is available to provide free, personal recovery support to households who lost their homes. Find out more information here, and email

recovery@samaritan.ca or call Kelly Dixon (403-614-8848) or Kandy White (236-622-2000) to access this one-on-one support.

Additional measures to support recovery – Visit the recovery webpage for up-to-date information on the RDOS's temporary measures to support rebuilding and recovery.

RDOS RECOVERY WEBPAGE WITH MORE DETAILS HERE

More community events & opportunities

Upcoming and ongoing community events and opportunities for those impacted by the wildfires.
**NEW* items were not included in the last newsletter.*

- *NEW* **Summerland Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Store:** On November 16, 11:30 am – 3:30 pm, the store will be open solely for impacted residents to browse at their leisure and take what is needed for free.
- *NEW* **Recovery assistance for families who lost their homes:** On November 28, 12:00 – 3:00 pm, the Penticton Sikh Temple (3290 South Main Street) is hosting a gathering to hear what items families most need and plan to provide assistance by purchasing requested items. Priority will be given to uninsured and underinsured households, but insured households are also welcome to share their needs. More info here.
- *NEW* **Salvation Army Thrift Stores continue to offer items at no cost** for total loss families in need of items like winter wear or kitchen supplies, for up to $75.00.
- **A Gift of Warmth,** a free holiday gathering for families who lost their homes on November 21, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm at Summerland Waterfront Resort. More info here.
- **Christmas Restored,** a free Christmas market for those who lost their homes, also on November 21, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm at Summerland Baptist Church. More info here.
- **Free community dinner** for residents who lost their homes on November 28, RSVP by November 19 (st.stephensummerland@shaw.ca or 250-494-3466). More info here.
- **Free community lunches** hosted by NeighbourLink Summerland on the third Thursday of each month, 12:00 – 1:00 pm at Summerland Community Centre, all welcome!
- **United Way BC Local Love Fund grants** – up to $1,000 to help Summerland residents bring community-building ideas to life (you do not need to have been directly impacted by the wildfire to apply). Email magdak@uwbc.ca. More info here.
- **United Way BC Emergency Resource list** shares up-to-date contacts, resources, programs and supports available for those impacted by the wildfire.
- **No-cost YMCA Family Memberships** available to 200 families affected by wildfires. Contact the YMCA for details or find more info here.

Stay connected & access resources
Visit the Faulder and Meadow Valley Wildfire Recovery page for guidance, measures implemented by the RDOS and other community supports available.

Visit the in-person Recovery Centre from:
Tuesday through Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and Saturday from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at Giant's Head Elementary School, 10503 Prairie Valley Road.

Days and hours of operation may vary; please check the website before visiting or call 250-863-2946. At the recovery centre, be sure to connect with the Canadian Red Cross and Samaritan's Purse.

Please note, the last day of operation for the in-person Recovery Centre will be Saturday, November 28, 2026.

Questions or need support? Contact baldrangerecovery@rdos.bc.ca.

Contacts:

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