



The Road to Re-Entry

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Re-Entering After an Evacuation

The Government of the Northwest Territories, through the NWT Emergency Management Organization, provides support to community governments.

This re-entry guide is intended to assist community governments as they prepare to have residents re-enter their community.

These best practices are in-line with the [Community Planning Guide: Re-entry after evacuation](#) and the [NWT Emergency Plan](#).



Phase 1

Community is safe from fire



Phase 2

Check for damage and identify critical services



Phase 3

Essential personnel for critical services return



Phase 4

Re-establish basic services



Phase 5

Return home

The timescale between phases will vary depending on a number of factors including:

- > The size of the community
- > The type and complexity of the emergency
- > Location of the community



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Phase 1: Community is safe from fire

- We will continue to rely on the Department of Environment and Climate Change wildfire experts to tell us when the fires will be declared “under control” and it is safe to return. This can look very different from one community to another.
- Once a community government analyzes the risk to the community in terms of access, travel, and air quality, they will advise when it is safe to go in and check for damage.

Phase 2: Check for damage and identify critical services

- For areas that experienced fire impacts, damage assessments will be necessary and we will work with community governments to identify what critical services are needed to support the return of residents.
- For communities that did not have any fire damage, this phase might move quickly, or may not be necessary.

Phase 3: Essential personnel for critical services return

- Community governments and GNWT departments will allow the return of essential personnel to establish critical services before evacuees are brought back.
- These essential services include: municipal services like water and sewer as well as hospitals, health clinics, pharmacies, hotels, gas stations, grocery stores and essential businesses such as early childcare providers.

Phase 4: Re-establish basic services

- Each community government will re-establish municipal services, while the GNWT will establish territorial services required to ensure safety prior to welcoming evacuees back.

Phase 5: Return home

- Once critical services are re-established evacuees will travel home by air or by road.
- Many of our evacuees are spread across different cities, which will require careful planning.
- We need to prepare to have enough fuel on hand for the amount of travelers, and ensure the roads are safe and passable, considering we may still have wildfire activity in other communities.

