

## Environmental Public Health

### **AHS Environmental Public Health's role in Fort McMurray**

Alberta Health Services' Environmental Public Health (EPH) staff are on the ground in Fort McMurray, playing a vital role in helping the community return to normal following the devastating wildfire.

Our Environmental Public Health team has been in the city since shortly after the evacuation, helping to ensure the safety of first responders, and others who opted to stay in Fort McMurray.

Since then, AHS Environmental Public Health (EPH) staff have continued intense efforts to support restoration efforts in the community, and ensure residents are safe as the city recovers.

### **AHS Environmental Public Health's (EPH) Roles and Responsibilities in Fort McMurray post-wildfire:**

- EPH staff continue to conduct approval inspections of food facilities (eg. restaurants, gas stations or work camps), social care facilities such as childcare businesses, personal service facilities and swimming pools. They are also conducting follow-up inspections as requested at those types of facilities.
- In collaboration with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB), EPH staff are conducting general overview inspections for homes designated by pink placards. Owners are provided a copy of the report and general recommendations on whether they require a professional assessment such as one by a building inspector.
  - The RMWB decides which homes get a pink placard based on certain criteria. If your home has a pink placard, please contact the Pulse Line 780-743-7000.
  - The AHS EPH inspection involves a general overview of the home and assesses homes for water damage and general damage to building materials, concerns associated with mold or pests.
- As always, EPH staff are available to conduct rental property inspections based on tenant complaints.
- EPH continues to work on the water taskforce group to review the municipal water system as it relates to the boil water advisory still in place.
  - EPH does offer drinking water testing (bacteriological and routine chemical) for private systems.

- For more information about the boil water advisory and affected areas visit: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/Page13265.aspx>

**AHS EPH is not involved in the following:**

- Soil or air testing is not the responsibility of EPH staff. Those tests are organized by the RMWB, Alberta Health and Alberta Environment and Parks. For more information visit: <http://www.alberta.ca/environmental-monitoring-fort-mcmurray.cfm>
- Private testing for homes is not conducted by EPH staff and should be organized through the homeowner's insurance company.

**When to get in touch with EPH:**

- If you own a business and would like to book an inspection or are a tenant with a complaint about a rental property please contact the local EPH office at 780-791-6078 or the Grande Prairie office at 780-513-7517.
- If you are looking for advice or resources on what to do when cleaning after a wildfire, which products to discard, please visit: <http://www.ahs.ca/epwildfire>. There are resources available for both homes and businesses.