

# Health Alert for Little Red River Cree Nation members considering travel to Fox Lake

Two months have passed since the Paskwa Fire and the Little Red River Cree Nation's Emergency Management Team and Indigenous Services Canada have worked together to restart essential services in the community. However, despite everyone's best efforts the Fox Lake community site remains unsafe at this time.

Indigenous Services Canada's Medical Officers of Health have determined that it is **unsafe** for Little Red River Cree Nation members to return permanently to Fox Lake due to significant public health risks, and are recommending that people do not return to Fox Lake at this time.

If you choose to temporarily return to Fox Lake, be aware of the following risks:

- Potential hazards that could cause injury include: exposed electrical objects, unstable buildings, damaged trees, collapsed roofs, open pits, wet and slippery surfaces, and sharp objects such as nails, metal, concrete and wood debris
- Safe drinking water is not available in Fox Lake. Drinking or cooking with unsafe water could lead to illness (e.coli, salmonella, shigella and others). The water is not considered safe for showering or bathing at this time.
- Health and emergency services are not available in the community. No doctors, nurses or paramedics will be in the community
- Access to medications will not be available in the community
- Household chemicals may have been damaged or have leaked, such as: kitchen and bathroom cleaning products, paint, batteries, fuel containers, and pesticides such as ant or weed killer
- Refrigeration is likely not available to store fresh food, this may affect the safety of your food
- Roaming dogs are present in the community that may be more aggressive and territorial than usual and this could result in a bite or attack.
- People with chronic health conditions, pregnant women and children are also advised to avoid travelling to Fox Lake.

## Protect yourself if you decide to return to Fox Lake

It is recommended that anyone choosing to return to Fox Lake against the advice of the Medical Officers of Health wear protective equipment including: N95 face masks, protective clothing and footwear that protects from punctures and slips.

Bring adequate canned food, a large quantity of drinking water and any medications you might need.

If you sustain an injury, even a minor one, such as a scrape or puncture, seek medical attention in John D'or Prairie or Garden River to prevent possible infections.

Thank you for your patience while Indigenous Services Canada works together with Little Red River Cree Nation's Emergency Management Team to ensure critical infrastructure and services are in place for a future safe return. Indigenous Services Canada will be providing regular updates as work in Fox Lake continues.

*From the Office of the Senior Medical Officer of Health  
Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Region  
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