



March 15, 2024

Dear Resident:

**Re: Post-Wildfire Debris Flow Hazards – Resident Safety**

Following the 2023 Downton Lake Wildfire (K71649) and Casper Creek Wildfire (K71535), the Province conducted two assessments to better understand potential risks to the public from wildfire-related natural hazards. The assessments cover the areas of:

- Anderson Lake
- Seton Lake Valley and
- Areas near Gold Bridge including Gun Lake.

The Province of British Columbia has now released these two assessments, and advises that several properties in these areas have been identified as falling within a natural hazard area.

Wildfires, especially those of the size and scale of the Downton Lake and Casper Creek wildfires, change the soil, vegetation, watercourses and other natural features of the area. These assessments evaluate the potential natural hazards, such as rockslides, debris flow, or flooding that may occur after a wildfire. They identify areas at increased risk and provide recommendations for further assessment and mitigation. Further assessments or mitigation work is at the expense of the property owner.

The initial reports can be found on the [Post-Wildfire Natural Hazards Hub - PUBLIC \(arcgis.com\)](#). We understand this may be concerning news, and the Province is committed to providing you with the information you need as you start your efforts to ensure your property is safe. Please let us know if you have any questions and we will work to provide answers to you as soon as possible. Should you have any questions, please email: [WildfireLandBasedRecovery@gov.bc.ca](mailto:WildfireLandBasedRecovery@gov.bc.ca).

The Province also plans to host a virtual Town Hall to answer questions related to the two natural hazard assessments. The Province has invited the SLRD to support the Province's efforts in convening this virtual Town Hall, and the SLRD will have several representatives in attendance to support the Province and to answer any questions relating to areas within the SLRD's jurisdiction.

The Town Hall discussions are planned for the following dates:

**Casper Creek Post Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Assessment**

**Date:** April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, from 5:00 – 7:00pm PST

**Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/CasperCreekTownHall>

**Downton Lake Post Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Assessment**

**Date:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 5:00 – 7:00pm PST

**Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/DowntonLakeTownHall>

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1) *What do I need to do with this information?***

Based on the findings, consider if further assessments by qualified professionals are warranted for your property. Additionally, take any necessary mitigation measures to minimize risks to your property. Further assessments or mitigation work is at the expense of the property owner.

**2) *What if I don't do anything with this information?***

Ignoring this information could potentially leave your property vulnerable to natural hazards identified in the assessment. Taking proactive steps based on the assessment's recommendations can help protect your property and mitigate risks to occupants.

**3) *Is there an imminent risk to my property?***

The assessment does not indicate an imminent risk but highlights potential areas where further assessment may be needed.

**4) *Who commissioned this assessment? Why was this assessment commissioned?***

The assessment was commissioned by the Ministry of Forests in response to the Downton Lake Wildfire (K71649) and Casper Creek Wildfire (71535), and subsequent concerns regarding post-wildfire natural hazards. Its purpose is to identify areas of increased risk to help guide recovery efforts and inform residents and property owners of potential hazards. Assessments were confined to crown land.

**5) *Why was this assessment completed without my knowledge?***

The Ministry, through a memorandum of understanding with BC Wildfire Service undertakes post wildfire natural hazard risk assessments because it is recognized that wildfire in steep areas potentially increases the risk to those living in the area. While the risk of landslide, debris flow or debris flood on steep creek fans may always have existed, it is potentially increased following a high intensity wildfire, thus the Ministry completes an assessment.

**6) *What is the post-wildfire risk assessment?***

The post-wildfire risk assessment evaluates potential natural hazards, such as rockslides, debris flow, or flooding, that may arise after a wildfire. It identifies areas at increased risk and provides recommendations for further assessment and mitigation. Further assessments or mitigation work is at the expense of the property owner.

**7) Who can I contact for more information?**

For further information about the assessment, residents and property owners can contact the Government of British Columbia at [WildfireLandBasedRecovery@gov.bc.ca](mailto:WildfireLandBasedRecovery@gov.bc.ca)

**8) How do I access the full report of the post-wildfire natural hazard assessment, and are there any resources available to help me interpret the findings?**

Reports can be access here: [Post-Wildfire Natural Hazards Hub - PUBLIC \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) by clicking on the Assessments Explorer tab. The information in the Wildfire Story Map tab explains in plain language an assessment for a 2021 fire. By reviewing the story map in conjunction with the detailed report for that fire, a greater understanding of how to interpret the results of the report for the fire in your area may be achieved.