



### BAMFIELD FAQ – Updated August 24, 2025

#### UTILITIES AND SERVICES

*When will Bamfield have their power restored and what is BC Hydro doing to expedite the process?*

- BC Hydro crews successfully restored power Saturday late afternoon – ahead of schedule – to more than 500 customers in Bamfield, Anacla, and balaacadt following.
- For power outage updates and info visit the BC Hydro Website: [bchydro.com/outages](https://bchydro.com/outages).

*What repairs were need for BC Hydro to complete the repairs?*

- The span of lines damage spanned approximately six kilometres, including two kilometres of steep, unstable terrain.
- Crews installed 63 new poles and 65 new spans of power line. To overcome the most challenging section – a 1.5-kilometre stretch inaccessible due to slope instability – BC Hydro implemented a temporary solution to restore service, while planning a permanent fix when conditions allow.

*How is the restoration of cellular/internet service coming along?*

- Cell service along the route to Bamfield and in Bamfield is extremely limited.
- Telus has activated a cellular booster that is offering a small pocket of cell service in East Bamfield between the Health Centre, Fire Hall and School. If you have questions, please contact Telus Customer Service, at [www.telus.com/en/support/contact-us](https://www.telus.com/en/support/contact-us)
- Rogers is offering beta testing of text to satellite in areas without cell coverage. Open to anyone on any provider. Compatible device required. Visit: [www.rogers.com/satellite](https://www.rogers.com/satellite) for more.
- Phone and fiber-optic transmissions are running through an area tower as lines along Bamfield Main are damaged. Community Wireless Network has a generator providing back-up power to fiber-optic internet.
- Starlink is available as an alternative for those interested. For more on this, visit: [www.starlink.com](https://www.starlink.com). Starlink is also offering one-month free to anyone affected by the wildfires in August.



## ACRD Emergency Operations Centre

### FUEL & PROPANE SUPPLIES

*What is being done to ensure there is adequate **fuel and propane** supply in our community?*

- Regular fuel and propane deliveries are being maintained and coordinated. Demand is being met and stations refueled within a day if required. Gasoline is available at the **HGB Gas Bar (East Bamfield)** and the **Mckay Bay fuel dock (West Bamfield)**.
- Propane and other cooking fuels are available at various businesses, including Breaker's Marine, Bamfield Builders, The Market, and Bamfield Mercantile.

### ROAD CLOSURES

*What road closures are currently in effect?*

- Bamfield Main (Franklin River Road) from **Franklin Camp to Port Alberni is CLOSED** - from KM 6 (south of China Creek Campground) to KM 25 (north of Headquarters Bay). Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) checkpoints are at the closure points.
  - Geotechnical assessment is underway - steep slopes in the area are unstable and as a result it is too dangerous to permit public traffic on that section of the road.
- For current road conditions, visit: [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)
- The route from **Bamfield through to Youbou is OPEN**.
  - The Ditidaht First Nation have activated flaggers at two checkpoints along the route – at the head of Lake Cowichan and at the Nitinat Junction. This is to assist travelers in their journey and advise them of any further interruptions to designated routes.
  - Graders have been working on the road to reestablish/maintain surface condition.
  - Signage in the area is being actively reviewed and changes made where necessary to improve communications.
  - For more information on the closures, go to the [BC Gov News Release](#).

*Who decided to close the road from Port Alberni to Bamfield and who will decide when it will open?*

- The decision was first made as a tactical closure by the BC Wildfire Service but is now operationally supported through evacuation order via the ACRD Emergency Operation Centre (EOC).



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- The road will remain closed until it is determined to be safe by first, the BC Wildfire service, and subsequently by the appropriate geotechnical officials who are informing the appropriate jurisdictions/owners of the section of road in question. Note: It is important to recognize that the roadway is a sequence of different road owners and jurisdictions, resulting in a complex structure of decision-making.

### **DRINKING WATER, FOOD SUPPLY & FOOD SAFETY**

*Is our drinking water supply compromised?*

- No, your drinking water distribution system is operating as expected.
- Should you notice any issues with your drinking water, please contact:
  - Les Butler, Bamfield Water System Operator  
250-735-2148
  - Eddie Kunderman, ACRD Manager of Operations  
250-720-2703

*What is the status of our supply system for goods and services in our community?*

- Food and other supplies are available at local businesses and by delivery through the [Lady Rose Marine](#).
- Food and drinking water safety during and after a power outage is an important aspect of your emergency plan and personal preparedness. For more on how to ensure your food and drinking is safe for consumption, visit: [www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca) and search “food and drinking water safety during an emergency.”

### **DOING BUSINESS IN BAMFIELD**

- The ACRD is working to support affected businesses by promoting that “Bamfield is ready to invite visitors back”, but to “come prepared”. This message will continue to be shared in ACRD outreach materials.
- Local businesses continue to restock and receive regular supply deliveries via [Lady Rose Marine](#) and the road through Youbou.
- Support local where you can. Every penny counts to a small business during these difficult and unforeseen times.
- Reach out to MLA Hon. Josie Osborne, Bamfield Director Bob Beckett, and ACRD as they are advocating for supports for Bamfield businesses:



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- MLA Hon. Josie Osborne
  - Constituency: 3945B Johnston Rd Port Alberni, BC V9Y 5N4
  - Email: Josie.Osborne.MLA@leg.bc.ca
  - Phone: 778-716-0472 Toll-free: +1 (866) 870-4190 Fax:(250) 720-4511
- Bamfield Director, Bob Beckett
  - Email: bbeckett@acrd.bc.ca

*What was considered when making the decision to state that Bamfield was only open to “Essential Travel”?*

- There were several factors that informed this decision. The Mount Underwood Fire has been described by BC Wildfire Services as unprecedented in this region, exhibiting a speed and veracity never seen before on Vancouver Island.
- In the first hours and days of this fire, numerous agencies mobilized and coordinated to provide accurate and timely information from relevant industry experts. Their priority was and is to ensure public safety and minimize damage, while assessing local resources and needs in affected remote communities.
- Using modelling that considered such factors as fuel type, terrain, weather, and wind behaviours it was suggested the fire had the potential to continue in the direction of the alternate travel route (Carmanah Main, Youbou).
- The concern was that this alternate route could potentially cut-off public access if aggressive fire behaviour continued. With public access to Port Alberni from Bamfield Main already cut-off due to the out-of-control fire, potential impacts to the alternate route, and the priority to ensure that affected remote communities had the resources needed to sustain themselves, the decision was made to state that Bamfield was only open to ‘Essential Travel’.

*Who made the decision to state that Bamfield is only open to “Essential Travel”?*

- This was a cooperative decision made by the ACRD EOC Director, the elected Director for Bamfield, the elected Chief of Huu-ay-aht Nations (also the Chair of the ACRD), Ditidaht First Nation, and the Huu-ay-aht Group of Business, based on information received by all relevant agencies and experts working diligently to keep the public safe (both area residents and visitors).



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- It was determined by local leaders that it would be more prudent to ask visitors to leave at this time, as there was still potential that the fire conditions could worsen, cutting off access to the alternate route.
- In the meantime, industry experts and local government officials worked tirelessly to assess and acquire existing and necessary remote community resources (e.g. fuels to keep local water, wastewater treatment facilities and generators running, medical and food supplies).
- When local leaders were able to gain certainty that the alternate route was no longer threatened by fire and that necessary resources (e.g. fuels, food and medicine, etc) could continue to be brought into the area, they make another cooperative decision to cautiously invite visitors back. None of these decisions were made lightly and agencies and experts continue to assess the situation and access resources in the best interest of local communities and their visitors.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

*What can I do to prepare for future events?*

- We strongly encourage you to take the steps to become better prepared for emergencies. Visit: [www.preparedbc.ca](http://www.preparedbc.ca)
- Know the types of hazards that could happen where you live: [British Columbia hazard map - Province of British Columbia](#) Gather supplies for your emergency kit and grab-and-go bag. Look around your home to see what's lying around: [PreparedBC.ca/Emergencykit](http://PreparedBC.ca/Emergencykit)
- Make your plan: [Make your emergency plan - Province of British Columbia](#)
- Download the VoyentAlert! app today to receive local emergency notifications, updates, instructions, and critical information. It is free, simple to register and anonymous. This is a simple step to help keep you and your loved ones safe. To register: [www.acrd.bc.ca/voyentalert](http://www.acrd.bc.ca/voyentalert)
- Download the guides:
  - [Home Emergency Plan \(PDF, 1.9MB\)](#)
  - [Emergency Ready Planner](#)
  - [Prepare Your Pets Guide \(PDF, 112KB\)](#)



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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

*What sources of information should I be looking at for regular updates?*

- For regular information updates on the Mount Underwood wildfire, visit: [www.acrd.bc.ca/mount-underwood-wildfire](http://www.acrd.bc.ca/mount-underwood-wildfire) .
- For information on what to do during a power outage, visit: [www.bchydro.com/safety-outages/power-outages/during-an-outage.html](http://www.bchydro.com/safety-outages/power-outages/during-an-outage.html)
- For current road conditions, visit: [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)
  - For details on wildfires in BC, visit: [BC Wildfire Service](#)