

Fire Recovery Resources

ElkStrong Long Term Recovery Group

(509) 903-6072 ElkStrongLTRG@gmail.com

Recovery process, housing solutions, support services, and more.

Spokane Home Builders Association

(509) 532-4990 www.shba.com/disasterrelief/

List of qualified contractors, asbestos remediation information, debris cleanup information.

Samaritan's Purse

(833) 747-1234 www.samaritanspurse.org

Free assistance with site sifting and site cleanup.

Spokane County Emergency Management

(509) 477-2204

www.spokanecounty.org/4579/Emergency-Management

Recovery resources, information on personal identification material replacement process.



Innovia Recovery Resource List

Use the QR Code to the left to access a Bigger List of Resources or visit <https://innovia.org/wildfire-relief/>

First Steps for Disaster Recovery

Use the QR code to the right to read a [Spokane Homebuilders Association](#) article with information on taking the first steps to recover from disaster.



REALTORS® Relief Foundation \$500k Relief Grant

Use the QR code to the left to learn more about the REALTORS® Relief Grant and apply for relief. You may also access the application online at <https://www.spokanerealtor.com/crisis-management/>



THANK YOU! We are grateful to the many organizations, businesses, volunteers, and non-profits that have stepped forward to help us recover! Your help is making a difference!

Text 99411 with the word recovery to receive recovery notifications from Spokane County Emergency Management

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NEXT STEP NEWSLETTER

An Elk Community Fire Recovery Newsletter

September 2023

WildFire Relief Fund
Free Asbestos Testing
Recovery Efforts
\$500k Relief Grant

pg. 2 The Elk Community is here to help!
pg. 2 The Long Term Recovery Group offers recovery assistance and support services.
pg. 3
pg. 4 Reach out for help at (509) 903-6072

Together We Are Elk Strong

You are not alone, whether you have always figured it out by yourself, built your place with blood, sweat and tears, or bought your place and perfected it. What you face is daunting. You may not know where to start, or you may have a plan laid out and are frustrated with endless red tape. You are not alone.

Each of us has a story from August 18th, 2023. Some are traumatic stories, full of fear, hurry, and loss. Others are of anxious evacuation preparations and waiting. We all felt the frustration of not knowing more.

We were in it together.

You saw it in the response. People at the ready with trailers, on the ground with equipment, or at home with open doors. You saw it in the relief effort. An outpouring of clothes, food, a place to stay, and meals.

This newsletter is about recovery and not forgetting our neighbors in need.

In the wake of the fire, we belong to a club no one wants membership to, but that connects us to other communities, people, and resources. ElkStrong is one of those resources and we are here to help you build again. We are a group of Elk citizens forming a 501(c)(3) non-profit under the umbrella of the Spokane County Long Term Recovery Group. We will work to find organizations that have money, manpower & materials to assist in Elk recovery. Learn more about us on page 3.

We know that this next step is a long process and will take endurance, patience and collaboration. We are here to help. Together we are Elk Strong!

Disaster Assistance Form Helps With Recovery Funding

If you were affected by the the Elk Community Fire, please fill out Spokane County Emergency Management's "Disaster Assistance Center Intake Form."

Completing this form could help our community access more funds for recovery and rebuilding efforts because Spokane County needs to know how many fire victims are uninsured in order to apply for additional federal funding.

Use this URL to access the form directly: tinyurl.com/ElkDisasterForm

OR use the QR code to the right.

You may also access the form through the Spokane County website at SpokaneCounty.org



ELKSTRONG LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP COMMUNITY MEETING

Join us to learn more about ElkStrong LTRG and recovery efforts.

Tuesday September 19th at 6:30pm
Riverside Middle School Commons

3814 E Deer Park Milan Rd
Chattaroy, WA 99003

Property Tax Relief for Those Affected by Wildfires

Following information from <https://www.spokanecounty.org/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=358>

"Those effected by the devastating wildfires affecting the West Plains and North Spokane communities may be eligible to receive some tax relief for the current year's property taxes.

Contact Spokane County Assessor's office at 509-477-3698 for more information."

Innovia Manages Donor Funding for Elk Wildfire Relief and Recovery

In response to the recent devastating wildfires, Innovia Foundation opened the Elk Community Wildfire Fund to support local nonprofits and other community organizations working to provide emergency and long-term relief for those impacted in the Elk Community.

The Wildfire Emergency Fund for Medical Lake and Elk communities **has raised more than \$900,000**. Innovia is currently providing grants to the local nonprofit organizations working on the front lines to provide immediate relief to individuals and families most impacted. As in previous wildfire response efforts, Innovia will work closely with community partners to get funding to where it is most needed as quickly as possible.

\$910,000+
raised for the individuals and families most impacted

Wildfire Emergency Response Fund

All donations fund recovery efforts and benefit fire victims. **If you'd like to donate to ElkStrong recovery efforts, please make donations to the Elk Wildfire Recovery Fund.**

Innovia states that, "As stewards of the generous donations to the Wildfire Emergency Response Fund, Innovia is committed to transparency and keeping the region apprised of new developments related to fundraising and fund distribution."

Visit <https://innovia.org/wildfire-relief/> for more information.



Use QR code to donate

KNIGHT BOAT DOCKS Donates \$50,000 Towards Asbestos Testing

Doug Knight with Knight Boat Docks has pledged \$50,000 towards asbestos testing for Elk fire victims through ServPro Spokane.

For inquiries, call  at (509) 487-4700

Asbestos Survey May be Essential for Building Permit & Aid

Spokane County cautions that fire victims may not be eligible to receive a building permit **if an asbestos survey is not completed.**

ElkStrong is working to find funding to train and certify several local volunteers to provide low-cost or free asbestos testing.

Contact (509) 903-6072 with inquiries about ElkStrong asbestos testing efforts.

For Spokane County Asbestos information use QR code to the right.



Elk Community Fire RECOVERY TIPS

 **TRACK EXPENSES**
KEEP RECEIPTS ON ALL EXPENSES FOR REIMBURSEMENT ASSISTANCE

 **VERIFY CONTRACTORS**
VERIFY THAT CONTRACTORS ARE LEGAL AND LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES

 **STAY HEALTHY**
WEAR PROPER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WHEN DEALING WITH ASH

 **FIND SUPPORT**
RECOVERING FROM DISASTER CAN BE EMOTIONAL, SCARY, AND DIFFICULT
CONTACT THE NATIONAL DISASTER DISTRESS HELPLINE AT 1-800-985-5990 FOR SUPPORT

The Work of ElkStrong Long Term Recovery Group

The ElkStrong committee of the Spokane County Long Term Recovery Group is currently being established in response to the Elk Community Fire (also known as the Oregon Rd. Fire). The goal of ElkStrong is to assist in recovery efforts and develop recovery processes.

ElkStrong is a community organization comprised of Elk residents working as volunteers.

ElkStrong is partnering with various businesses and non profit foundations to channel resources to fire victims. ElkStrong recently partnered with Innovia Foundation, an Eastern Washington and North Idaho based non-profit that distributes millions of dollars in grant funding. Innovia has the resources and infrastructure to help Elk rebuild and is managing financial contributions for fire recovery and rebuilding efforts.

ElkStrong will have several committees with volunteer opportunities. ElkStrong volunteers will help our community coalesce, develop a recovery process, and funnel resources to all who need them.

If you're interested in volunteering please e-mail ElkStrongLTRG@gmail.com

Recovery Efforts in the Works

The following is a list of **some** of the recovery efforts taking place or in development.

- Spokane County is fast-tracking building permits for fire victims.
- Inland Power & Light Company is restoring electricity to the point of origin for property owners free of charge. An extension charge applies if the homeowner wishes to go further.
- A local contractor is working on plans to restore or reinstall wells and septic tanks free of charge.
- Many local contractors and handymen are coordinating with the ElkStrong Construction Committee to assist in plans to provide **free temporary and permanent homes** for uninsured or underinsured fire victims.
- The City of Medical Lake is requesting State funding for debris cleanup on both fires.

Contact ElkStrong with questions about any of the above at (509) 903-6072

Obtain Demolition Permit Before Building Codes Change on October 30th

Spokane County has reduced Demolition Permits to \$25 and is recommending that you get this permit **before October 29th.**

New State building codes are coming into effect on October 30th that are more stringent. This could negatively impact your ability to have propane as your primary heating source.

Spokane County Commissioners are working to clarify with the State if demolition permits would allow fire victim applicants to grandfather in with the current codes instead of adhering to the new codes.

If you have blueprints or drawings available these can be submitted even if you might be making changes later.

Call Spokane County Building and Planning 509-447-3675 to get started.

Prevent Suicide

SPOKANE COALITION



A Message From Pastor Jose Ng

King Solomon tells us in Proverbs 29:18, 'Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained...' Other translations use the word 'perish' or 'cast off restraint,' but what this is telling us is if we don't have some sort of vision or direction, then people will just do whatever seems right to them. King Solomon further says, 'But happy is he who keeps the law.' The law is what God wants us to do. Success comes from when our vision is aligned with God's law!

As a church from this community, our mission is to 'serve our community in order to further the kingdom of God'. We want to serve you through this difficult time. We are here for the long haul, but we want to be more than just an organization that meets physical needs, we are here to pray with you and help meet spiritual and mental needs.

This is going to be a long process and we are committed to walking beside you until you and your families are completely restored.

Jose' Ng Lead Pastor at Country Church of the Open Bible