

NOTICE TO MINING CLAIM HOLDERS: CLAIMS IMPACTED BY WILDFIRE

The devastating 2024–2025 wildfire seasons caused widespread damage to mining claims across Manitoba. Many holders have reported significant damage, including burned or missing posts.

Under Section 82 of The Mines and Minerals Act, it is the responsibility of the holder to maintain and ensure that claim posts, boundary lines, and boundary markers remain clearly visible and in proper position.

This notice provides guidance for holders who need to reestablish claim boundaries or replace missing posts affected by wildfire.

DEFINITIONS

- **The Act:** [The Mines and Minerals Act](#)
- **The Regulations:** [Mineral Disposition and Mineral Lease Regulation](#)
- **Adjacent Boundary:** A boundary line shared by two holders, or open ground.
- **Claim:** A Mining Claim issued under The Mines and Minerals Act.
- **Claim Block:** A group of adjoining, unsurveyed mining claims held by the same holder.
- **Holder:** The registered holder of a mineral disposition.
- **Mining Recorder:** The official responsible for administering mining claims under The Mines and Minerals Act and determining whether reestablishment meets the requirements of Section 82.
- **Outer Boundary:** The outermost perimeter of a claim or claim block.
- **Reestablishment:** The process of identifying and restoring the physical boundaries of a mining claim that have been damaged, destroyed, or made unclear due to wildfire.

WHO THIS APPLIES TO

This notice applies to holders of unsurveyed mining claims that were affected by fire. As surveyed claims and Mineral Exploration Licences (MELs) are not physically staked, they are not affected. The responsibility remains on the holder to reestablish posts and confirm boundary locations in compliance with The Mines and Minerals Act and Regulations.

WHAT HOLDERS MUST DO

To maintain accuracy and consistency, holders must:

1. Review your claims/claim blocks and identify any potential boundary damage
 - a. Check the [Fire Impact data](#) on the Mines Branch website to see if your claim is in a fire zone. Use available data to determine if posts or boundary markers were damaged.
 - b. Based on what you find, figure out how many sets of replacement tags you'll need and contact the Office of the Recorder to request them before you start reestablishing your boundaries.
2. Reestablish key boundaries
 - a. Focus on restoring the outer boundaries of your claim block and any shared lines with other holders or open ground.
 - b. Attach replacement tags to new posts as required under the Act, and Regulations. Posts must be restored to the satisfaction of the Recorder.

- c. The Department does not cover reestablishment costs, but you can count this work as required work under the Regulations. Submit a Report of Required Work if you choose to apply this work.
3. Record and submit your information
 - a. Collect UTM coordinates and take photos of restored corner post, witness post, and intersection post.
 - b. Prepare a sketch or map showing reestablished boundaries.
 - c. Email your documentation as set out in the Submission Guide, including all .gpx files of restored posts to the Office of the Recorder at mines_br@gov.mb.ca.
 - d. Keep a copy for your records to support future online staking.

TIMELINE

Holders are encouraged to complete and submit their reestablishment information by November 10, 2027. Any claims that have not been reestablished as necessary will no longer be in compliance with The Mines and Minerals Act, and further action will be taken.

DISPUTES BETWEEN HOLDERS

The Mining Recorder does not settle boundary disagreements. Holders must try to resolve the issue themselves. If they cannot agree on the boundary, they may request an inspection. Inspectors will review the area either on the ground or by analyzing sketches and surrounding features. If holders do not agree with the inspectors' decision, they can submit a dispute to the Mining Board.

REESTABLISHMENT CHECKLIST AND SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

To streamline this process, it is important to ensure the package submitted to Mines Branch follows the submission requirements as listed in the Submission Guide, as directed by the Mining Recorder.

REPLACEMENT TAGS

Holders have two options for replacement tags. You may either:

1. Purchase a set of blank replacement tags and imprint (in a permanent, clear and legible manner) disposition numbers yourself. Unused sets of replacement tags can be returned for a refund. Or,
2. Provide our office with a list of required disposition numbers, and we will imprint the tags for you. Please note, Mines Branch requires 2 business days to prepare the tags and imprinted tags are non-refundable.

NEXT STEPS FOR MANITOBA'S MINING CLAIMS

This process is an important step toward modernizing Manitoba's mining claims. Confirming accurate boundaries now will help prepare for a future online, map-based claim staking process.

DISCLAIMER

This information is provided for general guidance only and does not replace legal requirements under The Mines and Minerals Act or its regulations. Any questions may be directed to mines_br@gov.mb.ca.