

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



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BC Wildfire Update: July 26, 2017

Updated as of 4:00 PM, Wednesday July 26, 2017

****Note: We apologize for any discrepancy in information. Information is sourced from various Provincial/Federal updates. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any revisions****

Updates:

- As of Wednesday July 26, 2017, there are approximately 154 wildfires burning across B.C. 21 of these fires are considered “wildfires of note”. No significant growth is being reported at the fires at this time.
- Weather is expected to remain hot and dry for the immediate future, and British Columbia is planning for a minimum 60-90-day response period.
- 20 First Nations communities are affected by the wildfires (15 evacuated, 2 under alert, 2 hosting evacuees and 1 undertaking wildland firefighting preparation activities).
- Properties northeast of Clinton have received an Evacuation Order due to the Elephant Hill wildfire. Updates will be provided as they come in.
- Reminder: Those registered with Red Cross are eligible for a financial assistance payment of 600\$, along with a secondary payment if you have already received assistance. Red Cross may have other services to assist you at this time, for more information please see *Additional Resources* or <http://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/british-columbia-fires>
- An AFN AGA draft resolution for support for BC First Nations will be considered by the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly on Thursday July 27, 2017, (please see attached draft for information).
- The Secwepemc Chiefs announced a call to action; the purpose is to support impacted First Nations by donating traditional foods and staple items such as meat, rice, potatoes, perishable and non-perishable foods to assist families in stocking up for the winter. Donations will be accepted at Splatsin Community Centre, where they will be canned and stored until the Shuswap Gathering on August 18, 19 & 20.
- Planning for re-entry is currently underway for communities at and around Williams Lake. No time line has been given for residents to return. Communities can assist or obtain information by calling their regional PREOC center.
- Costs to the Province are estimated to be over \$138.1 million, with 4082 firefighters fighting the fires. Many of these fire fighters are based out of province, and in various parts of the world such as New Zealand and Australia.
- 47,412 people have registered with Red Cross to date. Approximately 19,172 people remain displaced.
- A Status Card service is available at Tk'emlups te Secwepmec Powwow grounds for those in need.
- The powwow grounds at Tk'emlups te Secwepmec (Kamloops) remain open for evacuees. The grounds provide showers, RV space and food. Tk'emlups te Secwepmec may have space for livestock, as well as resources such as water and hay. For information call Ron @ (250) 819-8012. Approximately

500-600 people are on site. First Aid and mental health support services are available.

Information on Wildfires of Note

For detailed information regarding BC's wildfires of note:

<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp>

Evacuation Orders and Alerts:

For the latest updates for evacuation orders and alerts, check

<http://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca>

Information for returning home from an Evacuation Order:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/returning-home>

BC FIRST NATIONS ADVISORIES

Central Region (Cariboo Fire Center)

Ashcroft First Nation

Ashcroft has an Emergency Operations Center that is active. An information sharing dinner will be held for band members on July 25, 3:30pm-7:00pm. This meeting is not for the general public. Transportation and gas cards are available for traveling members to attend this meeting. Red Cross, FNESS, FNHA, EMBC, MIRR, INAC and onsite restoration will be in attendance. Housing and Restoration services are onsite to assist members impacted by wildfire. Many members are still waiting for financial assistance from Red Cross. Many supporting services are onsite to support band members. Donations for Ashcroft are being accepted at RBC, account #02320-003-1027258
Primary Contact: Chief Greg Blain (250) 457-7130.

Bonaparte Indian Band

Bonaparte has no new updates until further notice.
Primary contact: Kukpi7 Ryan Day: (250) 457-3025.

Cooks Ferry Indian Band

Cook's Ferry is operating normally. Air quality is being monitored by on-site nurses.
Primary contact: Chief David Walkem (250) 315-8508 or (250) 458-2224

Skeetchestn Indian Band

The community remains on alert and is monitoring the fire patterns. The community has taken precautionary measures, including ESS training from the Central PREOC. A Band Council Resolution for Alert is in place, and the community remains prepared with an operational Emergency Operations Centre. The community is maintaining a fire watch program. FNESS is has been onsite to assist with EOC activities and evacuation planning.

Primary contact: Kukpi7Ron Ignace: kukpi7.ignace@gmail.com

Simpcw First Nation

Simpcw is not under an evacuation alert, or an evacuation order. The community is prepared with an Emergency Operations Centre ready if needed.

Primary contact: Shelley Lampreau (250) 571-4886 or by email
shelley.lampreau@simpcw.com.

Whispering Pines

Whispering Pines is on evacuation alert, and the community continue to monitor the situation. The community is prepared and necessary equipment is in place.
Primary contact: Chief Steve Tresierra, (780) 910-7067.

Northeast Region (Prince George Fire Center)

Alexis Creek First Nation (Tsideldel)

Alexis Creek is not under an evacuation order, or alert. The community has organized crews to enact preventative measures for their community. Fire-fighters from Alexis Creek are assisting the T'letinqox Government (Anaham). A Band Council Resolution is in place. As of July 24, 2017, the community is landlocked by fire but not in immediate danger. Some members that left the community are beginning to return. There are currently 221 people on reserve, including 25 firefighters. Burn out operations are underway at the Big Creek area.

Primary contact: Chief Evan Charleyboy: (250) 305-4459 OR Councillor Percy Guichon: (250) 267-2507

Canim Lake Indian Band

Canim Lake remains under an Evacuation Alert; the band is focused on advanced planning. Some members are beginning to return home, and re-entry planning is underway for those returning from Prince George, Kamloops and Chilliwack.

Primary contact: Chief Mike Archie: (250) 397-2227 OR Command Center: (250) 397-2253

?Esdilagh First Nation

?Esdilagh remains on an evacuation order. Permits have been issued to bring food and equipment in for the 9 members remain in community with 30+ firefighters. PREOC informed INAC that they have received a BCR from the Nation declaring an Evacuation order. Some members have self-evacuated prior to the receipt of the BCR; and issues with ESS have now been resolved.

Primary contact: Chief Roy Stump (250) 983-8348

Esk'etemc First Nation

The community is on evacuation order. MEA PREOC reports about 250 people notified of Evacuation Order, 103 remain in the community of which 60 are fire fighters. 142 people have evacuated to Prince George and Kamloops. Satellite phones are onsite.

Primary contact: Kukpi7 Charlene Belleau, (250) 305-8784.

Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation

The community is on evacuation alert. The situation is being monitored, and the community is prepared in the event an evacuation order is issued.

Primary contact: (250) 992-3290

Soda Creek First Nation (Xat'sull)

Soda Creek remains on an evacuation order. PREOC assistance has been requested. Re-entry planning is now underway at Soda Creek in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

Primary contact: Chief Donna Dixon, (250) 267-7464.

Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe/Dog Creek)

Both communities are under an evacuation alert. A number of community members have evacuated to Kamloops due to health concerns. Satellite phones have been received. 134 people are in Dog Creek, and an additional 49 in Canoe Creek.
Primary contact: (250) 440-5645

Tl'etinqox Government

TNG has set up an office at the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council. Community remains under evacuation order. Many community members have remained to fight the fires. Elders and children have been relocated. Power has been restored. Mop up and monitoring activities are underway on nearby fires.
Financial contributions are welcome by Paypal: <http://www.tsilhqotin.ca>.
Primary contact: Tsilqhotin National Government, (250)-392-3918.

Toosey First Nation

Community fire fighters and the BC Wildfire Service are currently working together, with possibly more support on the way – permits for access are being worked on.
Primary contact: Chief Laceese (250) 659-5655

Ulkatcho Indian Band

As of July 24, Ulkatcho is not on an evacuation alert or evacuation order. 328 members are on reserve, including 27 firefighters.
Contact: (250)-742-3260 OR (250) 742-3288

Williams Lake Indian Band

Williams Lake is currently on an evacuation order. The Band is currently working on re-entry planning. Chief Louie indicated 41 people are in the community with evacuees in Kamloops, Prince George and one family on IR#3. An essential services team is community for advanced planning with the Caribou Regional District and the City of Williams Lake for re-entry.
Primary contact: Chief Ann Louie, (250) 267-2688

Yunesit'in Government

An evacuation order is in place. NEA PREOC reports 60 people remaining in the community of which 30 are firefighters. Remaining community members are currently evacuated in Prince George, Penticton, Kamloops. Mop up and monitoring activities on nearby fires is underway.
Primary contact: Chief Russ Myers (250) 302-2189 or rmross@yunestin.ca.

HIGHWAY CLOSURES AND UPDATES:

For the latest road closures and conditions, visit www.drivebc.ca

- Highway 20 open to eastbound traffic only. Closed to westbound traffic (Except Emergency Vehicles and First Responders) at the Sheep Creek/Chilcotin Bridge, 25 km west of Williams Lake to 5 km west of Alexis Creek. No detour available. Assessment ongoing.
- Highway 97 closed in both directions (except emergency vehicles and first responders) from Williams Lake to North of Lac La Hache at Wright Station Road

(60.8 km). Check points remain in effect. Evacuation order still in place for Williams Lake, with the egress route being Highway 97 southbound. No estimated time of opening; assessment ongoing.

- Highway 97 closed in both directions (except emergency vehicles and first responders) from Williams Lake to McLeese Lake (43). Check points remain in effect. Evacuation order still in place for Williams Lake, with the egress route being Highway 97 southbound. No estimated time of opening; assessment ongoing.
- Likely Road closed in both directions (except emergency vehicles and first responders) from 150 Mile House to Junction with Horsefly Road (4.5 km) because of Forest Fire. Detour from Likely-Horsefly Junction to Beaver Lake Road and then to Hwy 97N. No estimated time of opening.

AIR QUALITY ADVISORIES

For updates on air quality advisories, check

https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=bc

Air Quality Advisories remain in place for the following locations:

- 100 Mile House
- Cariboo
- Chilcotin
- North Thompson

Additional Resources

Red Cross Emergency Funds: Anyone registered with the Red Cross will immediately receive \$600 via direct transfer to their bank account. To register, or if you have been evacuated, click on the following link www.redcross.ca/gethelp or call 1-800-863-6582.

Update: those already registered are eligible for a second payment of 600\$

British Columbia Fires Appeal donation information: www.redcross.ca

Red Cross Emergency Preparedness information and tips: www.redcross.ca/beready

BC Emergency Preparedness

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/emergencyprogramact/2016/01/11/discussion10/>

The Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Center (PREOC) may be able to coordinated requests for resources for communities on Evacuation Alert. For information contact or email:

PREOC Northeast Region Contact:

Call: (250) 612-4172

Email: PREOC5.FN1@gov.bc.ca

PREOC Central Region Contact:

Call: (250) 371-5240

Email: PREOC3.FN1@gov.bc.ca

For affected workers, Service Canada is making every effort to provide direct assistance to workers and communities during this difficult time: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/portfolio/service-canada/wildfires-british-columbia.html>

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC DAILY REGIONAL TELECONFERENCES

For specific support in regional areas please call or email:

Central Region (Kamloops) (250) 371-5261

Northeast Region (Prince George) (250) 614-6322

PREOC First Nation Coordination calls (Regionally based)

- **Northeast region – daily calls at 2:00 pm**
Dial in 1-877-353-9184 participant ID 6160606#
- **Central Region – daily calls at 3:00 pm**
Dial in 1-877-353-9184 Participant ID 5166580#

If you require any further information or support, please contact UBCIC, FNS or BCAFN. Please send community updates to curtis.bedwell@bcfn.ca