

## OVERVIEW

### **Current Situation: Unchanged**

PECC Activated Level 1

Southeast PREOC Activated Level 2

Local Government EOCs: Activated Level 2

Warm and dry weather persists across much of the southern half of the province as the long weekend begins. A low pressure system moved across the province overnight, bringing strong winds and lightening. Temperatures are cooler today as expected. The area of greatest concern at this time is the Southeast Region. There are 7 major fires burning in the Southeast Region at this time. The largest of these fires, **the Springer Creek Fire near Slocan, is currently at 2500 ha and growing**. 30 homes have been evacuated as a result of this fire. Highway 6 remains closed and a number of homes remain on evacuation alert. Twenty seven new fire starts were reported in the Southeast Region yesterday.

The Ministry of Forests Protection Program continues to aggressively action the fires in the Southeast Region. Current information on wildfires can be found on Ministry of Forests Protection Program website at: <http://bcwildfire.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Situation.asp>

## IMPACTS - RESPONSE

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has issued a Declaration of State of Local Emergency to facilitate evacuations and response actions.

- **There are currently 30 homes (100 people) under Evacuation Order. No change from yesterday.**
- **There are 68 homes on Evacuation Alert. No change from yesterday.**
- **Highway 6 remains closed at Slocan Bluffs.**

RDCK EOC has issued a number of public advisories and Media Releases with respect to Evacuation Preparedness and evacuation routes. Additional ESS resources have been provided to the New Denver Reception Centre from Nakusp ESS program to assist with the management of evacuees.

MOT and MOF have developed a strategy to protect a wooden bridge on Highway 6 at Enterprise Creek, using sprinklers.

Due to an improvement in air quality, MOE has cancelled an "Air Quality Advisory" issued on August 2nd, for much of the West Kootenays.

Telus reports that an areal fibre-optic cable runs along side Highway 6 through the closure area. The PREOC is working with RDCK and amateur radio volunteers on an emergency communications plan in the event the line is damaged by fire. Telus is working on a plan to supply phone service through alternate means should it be required.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) has deployed 1 Sprinkler Protection Unit to the Springer Creek Fire in the Slocan Valley; A second SPU kit has been deployed to the Hamil Creek Fire (previously known as Argenta), and a third SPU kit has been deployed to the Penstock Fire near Needles.

The SEA PREOC in Nelson and the PECC in Victoria will be staffed throughout the weekend by TEAMS members and PAB Information Officers. The Regional District of Central Kootenay EOC in Nelson will also be staffed throughout the weekend. Ministry of Forests and Range, Protection Program continues to action the fires with heavy equipment, aircraft and ground crews.

#### **OUTLOOK**

**Afternoon thunderstorms are expected to develop over many areas of southern BC over the next few days due to the unstable air mass which moved across the province yesterday. There is no significant precipitation in the forecast over the next 3 days however, some precipitation should be present where thunderstorms develop.**

**The current weather forecast is suggesting warm temperatures and lighter winds for the Southeast Region over the next few days. After a fairly quiet day yesterday, no significant increase in activity is anticipated based on this forecast over the next day.**

Additional detailed local news and fire maps, can be found on the Regional District of Central Kootenay website at <http://www.rdck.bc.ca/publicinfo/news.html>