

OVERVIEW

Current Situation: Unchanged

PECC Activated Level 1

Southeast PREOC Activated Level 2

Local Government EOCs: Activated Level 2

There has been little change in public safety issues over the past 48 hours. Warm and dry weather persists across much of the southern half of the province as the long weekend continues. Seasonal temperatures persist throughout, and minimal precipitation is in the forecast. The area of greatest concern remains 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. MOF reports that a successful burn-off yesterday was able to stop the down-slope fire spread near Highway 6.** 30 homes have been evacuated as a result of this fire. Highway 6 remains closed and a number of homes remain on evacuation alert.

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) issued a Declaration of State of Local Emergency on August 1st, 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.**

The focus of the public safety issues at this time remains the care and support to evacuees and the issues related to travel due to the closure of Highway 6. A re-entry visit for evacuees on the south side of the Springer Creek fire was completed today with the cooperation of MOF and RDCK. A plan is being worked on for a similar re-entry visit for the evacuees on the north side.

BC Ambulance has established a Regional EOC in Nelson.

BC Hydro has pre-positioned 5 emergency generators in the West Kootenays for use in communities which may experience power outages.

RCMP continue to staff the traffic control sites for the closure of Highway 6.

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 aerial 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. **Staff rotations are beginning this afternoon for provincial operations centres.** The Regional District of Central Kootenay EOC in Nelson will also be staffed throughout the weekend. **RDCK is receiving staffing assistance from other Local Governments for staffing of its EOC.**

OUTLOOK

Seasonal temperatures and little precipitation is in the forecast for the next few days for the Southeast Region of the province. Across the remainder of the southern half of the province cooler temperatures are expected for later this coming week. In the north of the province, more precipitation is expected by the middle of this coming week.

The current weather forecast is suggesting warm temperatures and occasional gusty afternoon winds for the Southeast Region over the next few days. Some lightening is expected this afternoon and little or no precipitation is in the forecast. If gusty winds develop over the fires there could be some increase in the fire activity.

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>