

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 72 hours. The weather pattern remains quite stable with warm and dry conditions throughout the southern half of the province and afternoon thunderstorms in many areas. In the Southeast Region, seasonal temperatures persist throughout, and minimal precipitation has been recorded. The area of highest fire risk and greatest concern remains the Southeast Region. There are 7 major fires burning in the Southeast Region at this time. **MOF reports that they are making good progress on containing the fires through burn-offs and guard building. The largest of the Kootenay fires, the Springer Creek Fire near Slocan, is currently estimated at 2850 ha. MOF reports that fire spread on Springer Creek Fire is away from Highway 6 at this time.** 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. Re-entry visits for the evacuees are being organized today. Due to the ongoing risk to evacuated residents, ESS has been extended through to August 9th. Mobile bedding resources have been moved into the region to support potential group lodging requirements.

The RDCK and MOF will be hosting public meetings for evacuees and residents this afternoon at the following locations:

- **New Denver, Knox Hall 13:00**
- **Slocan, Youth Centre 15:30**
- **Nakusp, Royal Canadian Legion 17:00**

For specific information and maps on evacuations and alerts associated with the fires, visit the Regional District of Central Kootenay website at:

<http://www.rdck.bc.ca/publicinfo/news.html?action=display&id=67>

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.

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 and cooler temperatures are expected by the middle of this 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.

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>