

## Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC)

Summer 2006 Fire Season Situation Overview – July 3, 2006; 2200 hrs

### General Overview

For general information and the current weather forecast for British Columbia, refer to <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pScripts/Protect/WildfireNews/News.asp>

### Northeast Region

Based on a recommendation from the Ministry of Forests (MOF) Protection Branch Incident Commander (I/C) for the Tumbler Ridge Complex fires, the District of Tumbler Ridge has declared a State of Local Emergency and issued an Evacuation Order to approximately 3,500 residents. Evacuation of the community began at approximately 1940 hrs on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The primary concerns are the closure of highway 52 from Hourglass Creek to Dawson Creek, the threat to highway 29 to Chetwynd, and the risk of an interface fire impacting Tumbler Ridge.

- The Town of Chetwynd Emergency Social Services program has opened a reception centre and will assist with transportation, food and shelter. The City of Dawson Creek is activating their emergency structure to assist with evacuees.
- The RCMP is moving additional resources in to Tumbler Ridge to assist with the evacuation, along with Search and Rescue volunteers and fire department personnel.
- The Ministry of Transportation has established road barriers to stop traffic into the area, and cleared construction sites to facilitate traffic flow.
- The Prince George Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre (PREOC) has been assisting the local government Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) in the preparation of the Declaration and Order, as well as facilitating assistance from other ministries and agencies.
- The Oil and Gas Commission, BC Ambulance Service, Northern Health, Office of the Fire Commissioner, RCMP, Ministry of Forests, local governments and other stakeholders have been participating on conference calls to ensure information flow.

### Definitions

#### Evacuations

**Evacuation Alert:** People are warned of imminent threat to life and property, and are asked to be ready to leave on short notice. Be prepared for worsening conditions. An Evacuation Alert can be upgraded to an Evacuation Order at any time. There is no minimum time required between the two notices. Evacuation Orders can be issued at any time.

**Evacuation Order:** People must leave the area immediately. Evacuation Orders are delivered door to door by RCMP and volunteers. If you hear of an Evacuation Order for your area, you should not wait to be contacted in this way. You should leave immediately.