

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC)

Summer 2006 Fire Season Situation Overview – July 4, 2006; 2100 hrs

General Overview

For more on Wildland Fire News, refer to Ministry of Forests
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pScripts/Protect/WildfireNews/News.asp>

For more on road closures, refer to Drive BC
<http://www.drivebc.ca/>

Northeast Region

The Northeast Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre continues to be activated as of July 3, 2006, to support local authorities and coordinate provincial ministries and agencies.

Peace River Regional District

The Peace River Regional District has declared a State of Local Emergency, and has activated their Emergency Operations Centre in Dawson Creek.

District of Tumbler Ridge

A Declaration of a State of Local Emergency, and an Evacuation Order issued July 3rd remains in effect.

There are 4 large fires burning near Tumbler Ridge. The Hourglass Creek fire has been of primary concern, leading to the evacuation of 3,500 residents from the area. Approximately 1,000 people have registered at Chetwynd's Reception Centre for Emergency Social Services. A further 100 have registered in Dawson Creek.

Highways 52 and 29 in the district are closed to public access, with the exception of some restricted industrial activity.

Alaska Highway

The Alaska Highway is closed due to a fire at kilometre 143 (Mile 91). Road blocks have been set up at Pink Mountain (kilometre 226) and Charley Lake (kilometre 90). There are three other fires currently burning along the Alaska Highway that may cause road closures at Trutch (Mile 202), Mile 91 and Tommy Lakes (Mile 115).

Wonowon

An Evacuation Alert has been issued to some fifty households affecting approximately 200 people.

Central Region

The Central Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre has been activated as of July 4th, 2006.

Thompson-Nicola Regional District

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District Emergency Operations Centre has been activated July 4th, 2006.

Chuwels Mountain (18 km southwest of Kamloops)

A fire in the Chuwels Mountain area along the Coquihalla Highway has led to the closure of 2 recreational sites. Fire crews continue to work to contain the blaze.

Cariboo Regional District

The Cariboo Regional District has declared a State of Local Emergency as of July 4th, 2006.

Ahahim & Nimpo Lakes

The Ministry of Forests continues to apply resources to contain several fires in the area. Residents have been placed on Evacuation Alert.

Tezla Lake

Tezla Lake is under an Evacuation Order.

The Nazko Indian Band has voluntarily evacuated the community of Nazko west of Quesnel due to smoke issues. The City of Quesnel is opening a Reception Centre to receive an estimated 150 people from the Nazko Indian Band.

Eleven guests from a lodge near Tezla Lake have been evacuated, in addition to one resident previously evacuated by Ministry of Forests.

Tsacha Lake

Residents of Tsacha Lake have been issued an Evacuation Alert.

Emerald Island

A 1-hectare fire on Emerald Island, approximately 20km NW of 108 Mile House, burned down a cabin. The fire consumed all forest on the island, and is therefore no longer a threat to any other structures or values.

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.