

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC)

Summer 2006 Fire Season Situation Overview – July 5, 2006; 1930 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 to support local authorities and coordinate provincial ministries and agencies. There are three open Emergency Operations Centres (Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge, Williams Lake), and three Reception Centres (Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Quesnel). A total of two Evacuation Orders and six Evacuation Alerts have been issued (see below).

Peace River Regional District (PRRD)

A declaration of a State of Local Emergency remains in effect, and the PRRD Emergency Operations Centre located in Dawson Creek remains activated.

District of Tumbler Ridge

A declaration of a State of Local Emergency issued July 3rd remains in effect, while the Evacuation Order has been downgraded to an Evacuation Alert. The Emergency Operations Centre in Tumbler Ridge remains activated. Fires burning near Tumbler Ridge have stabilized and residents are returning to their homes as of July 5th, though individuals with health issues may choose to remain outside the area.

Currently, Highway 52 is closed to public access, while Highway 29 is open with restricted travel. Road closures are not restricting industrial activity.

Alaska Highway

The Alaska Highway has been reopened between Fort St. John (kilometre 101) and Pink Mountain (kilometre 226). Conditions along the Alaska Highway have improved and vehicles are now allowed to pass former road closure points, escorted by pilot vehicles when required due to smoke.

Wonowon

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

Cariboo Regional District

The Cariboo Regional District declared a State of Local Emergency on July 4th, 2006, and the Emergency Operations Centre in Williams Lake remains activated.

Wultus Lake (west of Quesnel)

Wultus Lake is under an Evacuation Order as of July 4th, 19:15 hrs.

Tsacha, Euchiniko, Ahahim & Nimpo Lakes (West Chilcotin)

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 as of July 4th, 19:15 hrs. Highway 59 east of the Nazko community is closed due to impacts from a forest fire.

The Nazko Indian Band has voluntarily evacuated the community of Nazko (west of Quesnel) due to smoke issues. The City of Quesnel has opened a Reception Centre to receive an estimated 150 people from the Nazko Indian Band, as well as evacuees from the Upper Dean Area.

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

Central Region

The Central Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre remains activated to support local authorities and coordinate provincial ministries and agencies.

Thompson-Nicola Regional District

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District Emergency Operations Centre remains activated as of July 4th, 2006. An Emergency Operations Centre has been opened in Kamloops as of July 5, 2006.

Chuwels Mountain (18 km southwest of Kamloops)

A fire in the Chuwels Mountain area has led to the closure of 2 recreational sites.

Definitions

Evacuations

Evacuation Alert: Local authorities issue a warning in the form of an Evacuation Alert about an imminent threat to life and property, and people are asked to be ready to leave on short notice. When people choose to leave an area before or during the issuing of an alert, this is referred to as a voluntary evacuation.

Evacuation Order: Local authorities issue an Evacuation Order when the population is determined to be at imminent risk, and people must leave the area immediately. Local police or RCMP enforce Evacuation Orders.

Evacuation Rescind: An Evacuation Order or Alert is rescinded or lifted by local authorities when it is determined to be safe for residents to return home. An Evacuation Order may be reinstated if a threat returns.