

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC)

Summer 2006 Fire Season Situation Overview – July 7, 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 two open Emergency Operations Centres (Tumbler Ridge, Williams Lake), and four Reception Centres are operational (Williams Lake, Quesnel, Chetwynd, and Bella Coola). A total of two Evacuation Orders and four Evacuation Alerts have been issued (see below).

Peace River Regional District (PRRD)

A declaration of a State of Local Emergency has been rescinded, and the PRRD Emergency Operations Centre located in Dawson Creek has been deactivated.

District of Tumbler Ridge

While the evacuation alert and the Declaration of a Local State of Emergency for the District of Tumbler Ridge have been rescinded, the Tumbler Ridge Emergency Operations Centre remains activated. All roads are open with some restrictions.

Wonowon

An Evacuation Alert affecting some fifty households and approximately 200 people has been rescinded.

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.

Nazko (Wultus Lake)

Nazko (Wultus Lake) – An Evacuation Order has been downgraded to an Evacuation Alert as of July 7, 2006.

S.E. Nazko (Wultus Lake) – Residents remain on an Evacuation Alert.

Nazko (North of Narcosli)

Euchiniko Lake – An Evacuation Order has been downgraded to an Evacuation Alert as of July 7, 2006.

Nazko and Kluskus Village (west of Quesnel) - First Nations

The Nazko Indian Band remains voluntarily evacuated from the community of Nazko due to smoke issues. The City of Quesnel Reception Centre remains open, and is currently providing service for approximately 211 evacuees.

Kluskus Village remains on an Evacuation Alert. Residents of the Kluskus Village chose to remain in their homes overnight and the fire threat has lessened significantly today. Highway 59 access east of the Nazko community is available to the public only with the escort of a pilot vehicle (see definitions).

Anahim Lake to Tezla Lake

Tezla Lake and Tezla Lake South (Upper Dean) – An Evacuation Order continues, and will likely remain for the next 48 hours to allow for a planned *burnoff* (see definitions).

Tsacha, Anahim, and Nimpo Lakes area – Residents are under an Evacuation Alert. Highway 20 remains open, but a travel advisory is in effect.

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.

Pilot Vehicle: A vehicle designated by the Ministry of Forests or RCMP used to guide the public through a portion of roadway deemed dangerous because of fire-related issues, such as heavy smoke.

Burnoff: A burnoff, or prescribed fire, is the knowledgeable and controlled application of fire to a specific land area to accomplish planned resource management objectives. These fires are managed in such a way as to minimize the emission of smoke and maximize the benefits to the site. For more information, <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/burning/prescribedfire.htm>.