

PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE SITUATION REPORT - JULY 27, 2006 1430 hrs

Overview

Interface fires of concern in the Central Region include the 87 hectare Tuktakamin fire (#K40587) 5 km southwest of Falkland and the 150 hectare Thompson RV Park fire (#K70702) 10 km south of Spences Bridge.

The Central Region Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) remains activated at level 1. The Shuswap Emergency Management Program (SEMP) activated an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Salmon Arm.

Current Situation

FALKLAND

No homes or structures have been damaged at this time. An Evacuation Alert is in place for 5 homes. SEMP has made arrangements to establish reception centres in Salmon Arm and Vernon in the event that residents in the Falkland area are required to leave their homes. A community meeting hosted jointly by SEMP, MOF, and Falkland RCMP last night ensured local residents were informed of developments with the fires in their area.

Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) indicated that their mapping resources would be made available should they be required.

Tuktakamin Mountain is a site for television, radio, microwave and cellular telephone assets. Industry Canada is working to insure that all stakeholders with structures on the mountain are alerted.

SPENCES BRIDGE

No homes or structures have been damaged. Structures at risk include CN Rail lines and a commercial operation including an RV Park. The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) has determined that activating an EOC is not required at this time. Central PREOC has been in contact with First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) to ensure that any local First Nations issues and concerns arising from this fire are addressed.

CENTRAL REGION

The PREOC is holding regular teleconference calls with stakeholders including utilities, NGO's, federal agencies, provincial ministry representatives, and local government while there is significant fire activity in the region. Emergency-trained TEAMS members, have been deployed to assist in staffing the PREOC and in providing liaison with local government.

Current Information about significant fires can be obtained from the Ministry of Forests and Range website: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pScripts/Protect/WildfireNews/Situation.asp>

Outlook

Temperatures are beginning to cool in the northern portion of the province, however the warm, dry weather will continue in the Central Region until the weekend when temperatures are expected to drop to below normal. Thunderstorm activity (60%) is forecast for the North Thompson area and north, accompanied by lightning and 5 to 10 mm of precipitation. There is a lesser chance of thunderstorms to the south (30%), however, precipitation will be minimal and the associated dry lightning will be a concern. In the Spences Bridge area, winds will increase to from 60 to 70 km/h on the weekend.

The long term forecast is for a return to seasonal hot and dry weather for the region.