

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) Interface Fire Situation Overview – July 29, 2006; 1600 hrs

OVERVIEW

A new interface fire broke out last night near Johnson Lake, 65 km northeast of Kamloops, between Barriere and Adams Lake. Johnson Lake has a number of recreational cabins and a small fishing camp on its perimeter. Ministry of Forest Protection Branch crews began working the fire last night and the Office of the Fire Commissioner dispatched an SPU (Sprinkler Kit) to this fire as well. RCMP and Barriere Search and Rescue Volunteers distributed Evacuation Alert notices to the fish camp and cabins late last night.

Other interface fires of concern in the Central Region include the Tuktakamin fire, 5 km southwest of Falkland and the Thompson RV Park fire 10 km south of Spences Bridge.

The Central Region PREOC and the PECC are activated at level 1. The Shuswap Emergency Management Program (SEMP) has activated an EOC in Salmon Arm and an Evacuation Alert is in place for 5 homes in the Falkland area. The Thompson Nicola Regional District has activated an EOC in Kamloops, and an Evacuation Alert was issued last night for the 10 cabins and the fishing camp on Johnson Lake.

CURRENT SITUATION

FALKLAND - Tuktakamin Mt. Fire

There has been little change in this fire over the last 2 days. No homes or structures have been damaged at this time. An Evacuation Alert is in place for 5 homes.

Tuktakamin Mountain is a site for television, radio, microwave and cellular telephone assets and Industry Canada has worked with MoF, the PREOC and the PECC to insure that all stakeholders with structures on the mountain have been alerted.

SPENCES BRIDGE - Thompson RV Park Fire

There has been little change in this situation over the past 24 hours. No homes or structures have been damaged.

Barriere - Johnson Lake Fire

This is a new interface fire that was first reported last night. MOF began actioning the fire last night and continues on it today. The Office of the Fire Commissioner dispatched an SPU and crew from Kamloops to the fire along with a Structural Protection Specialist. There are approximately 10 recreational cabins and a fishing camp on this lake and the fire did burn to within 2 km of some of those cabins overnight. Evacuation Alert notices were issued by TNRD and distributed to the cabin owners last night. Some people left the area voluntarily. A helicopter overflight by TNRD staff this afternoon indicates that the fire appears to be burning away from the area of the cabins at this time. The TNRD did open its EOC last night and it remains open this afternoon.

Current Information about significant fires can be obtained from the Ministry of Forests website:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pScripts/Protect/WildfireNews/Situation.asp>

OUTLOOK

Temperatures are cooler in most parts of the province today as expected. Rainfall warnings were issued by Environment Canada for today, for the Cariboo and Chilcotin and areas of the upper Fraser River Basin.

The longterm forecast is for a return to seasonal hot and dry weather for the region by the middle of next week.