

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC)

Interface Fire Situation Overview

September 7, 2006 1300 hrs

OVERVIEW:

TATOOSH COMPLEX:

The Tatoosh fire crossed the Canadian-U.S. border into the central region, east of Manning Park, on Sunday evening, September 3, 2006. B.C. Forest Service estimates current fire size in B.C. at approximately 2400 hectares, although dense smoke has made it difficult for the Forest Service to conduct over-flights to confirm fire size. Several small spot fires are burning ahead of the main fire.

The fire is not imminently threatening any structures.

As a result of discussion with B.C. Forest Service Protection Branch and Emergency Operations Centre officials, an evacuation alert was put in place, Tuesday, September 5, for residents of East Gate, Pasayten River Valley and parts of Manning Park by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. This evacuation alert remains in effect.

The Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Princeton remains activated. The Regional District is providing ample notice to the residents so that they can prepare should an evacuation be required. A public information line has been activated by the Regional District at 1-877-295-3790.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner, in conjunction with local fire departments, continues to assess and deploy structural protection units in the area.

Access is restricted to the Pasayten Forest Service Road and all side roads south of Highway 3 in the interests of public safety and to avoid interference with fire control efforts. Heavy smoke from the Tatoosh fire also continues to make mapping and detection difficult. It may create possible health concerns for people with breathing difficulties.

BC Parks has also closed several trails within Manning Park, Cathedral Park and the Snowy Protected Area. Refer to the BC Parks [website](#) for details.

The Central Region Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) are activated. Staff continue to provide agency coordination in support of local government through regularly scheduled conference calls with all agencies and local government.

TRIPOD (SIMILKAMEEN) COMPLEX:

The Tripod Complex (also known as the Similkameen Complex), located southwest of Osoyoos has not crossed the border but is being monitored closely. Ministry of Forest crews continue to take preventative action. A public information line for the Tripod fire has been activated at 1-877-498-3360.

OTHER AREA FIRES:

Two additional fires have developed in the area, Ashnola Complex (south of Cathedral Park) and Border Lake. These fires are well away from infrastructure and dwellings.

CURRENT INFORMATION:

Regional District Okanagan Similkameen

- <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/index.php?id=469>

BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Protection Program Wildfire Update

- <http://www.bcfireinfo.com>

Interior Health Authority Smoke and Health

- http://www.rdosmaps.bc.ca/min_bylaws/finance/EmergProtectiveServices/Fires2006/SmokeySkiesFAQ.pdf
- <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/NR/rdonlyres/5AD0DD00-DA23-4340-841B-0F88F10E2D61/2795/SmokeandHealthFAQ2005.pdf>

Ministry of Environment Air Quality

- <http://www.airplaytoday.org/default.htm>

Ministry of Environment, BC Parks Trail Closures

- http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/campfire_bans.html

Office of the Fire Commissioner

- <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom/>

Ministry of Transportation, Drive BC

- <http://www.drivebc.ca/>

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Incidents

- <http://www.inciweb.org/forest/4984>

DEFINITIONS:

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.