

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC)

Interface Fire Situation Overview

September 8, 2006 1500 hrs

OVERVIEW:

TATOOSH:

The B.C. Forest Service reports limited growth overnight on the Tatoosh fire, which crossed the border into Canada, east of Manning Park, on Sept. 3. The fire is currently approximately 3000 hectares (within B.C.) - this revised size is a result of more accurate information from infrared photography. Dense smoke continues to make confirmation of fire size, mapping and detection difficult. Several small spot fires are burning ahead of the main fire.

The weather forecast calls for a cold front to move through the region Saturday creating winds initially from the south, later turning to winds from the north.

The fire is not imminently threatening any structures.

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) issued an evacuation alert to the Cathedral Lakes Lodge on Friday afternoon, September 8. Officials provided notice to the Lodge that they may remain in the lodge, but should be prepared to leave on very short notice if the order is given.

An evacuation alert put in place Sept. 5 by the RDOS, for residents of East Gate, Pasayten River Valley and parts of Manning Park, remains in effect. There are approximately 180 homes/cabins in the alert area.

The 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 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 into Canada, 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.

BORDER LAKE FIRE:

There are two fires in the Ashnola Watershed, one located in Washington State and one in British Columbia. The U.S. fire remains well away from the border. The B.C. fire, known as the Border Lake fire, is an estimated 1400 hectares and is not imminently threatening any infrastructure or 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.