

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC)

Interface Fire Situation Overview

September 9, 2006 1800 hrs

OVERVIEW:

The B.C. Forest Service reports the Tatoosh and Border Lake fires experienced significant growth overnight. However, heavy smoke and moist cloud cover prevented overnight infrared mapping of the fires. The Tatoosh fire was last estimated at approximately 3,000 hectares in size, within B.C. The Border Lake fire is an estimated 1,700 hectares.

The fires are not imminently threatening any structures.

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has issued two **evacuation alerts** to date:

- on Sept. 8, an **evacuation alert** was issued for the Cathedral Lakes Lodge.
- on Sept. 5, an **evacuation alert** was issued for residents of East Gate, Pasayten River Valley and parts of Manning Park, affecting approximately 180 homes/cabins in the alert area.

Both **evacuation alerts** remain in place. People are asked to be ready to leave on short notice.

The RDOS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Princeton remains activated, with a public information line available to respond to enquires 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. All 37 structures within the Pasayten River valley now have structural protection in place. This includes pumps, hose, and sprinklers.

In the interests of public safety and to avoid interference with fire control efforts, the B.C. Forest Service has restricted road access:

- along Ashnola Road from 6km southbound; and
- to the Pasayten Forest Service Road and all side roads south of Highway 3.

BC Parks has also closed the majority of backcountry trails within Manning Park – details are available [online here](#). Sections of Cathedral Park and portions of the Snowy Protected Area have also been closed. Refer to the BC Parks [website](#) for specific details.

Smoke may also create possible health concerns for people with breathing difficulties.

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

The Tripod Complex (also known as the Similkameen Complex), 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.

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.pssq.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.