



News Release No. 51

Date: July 24, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m.

KELOWNA:

Yesterday's rain was welcome in the fire-fighting effort for the Terrace Mountain forest fire.

The Ministry of Forests estimates its approximately 4,440 hectares, is 20% contained and the precipitation has provided some additional time to bolster guards and work towards increased containment. There are 175 fire fighters on the ground supported by more than 20 water tenders and 36 pieces of heavy equipment on the fire lines. Structural protection units have been deployed in area communities. In addition, seven helicopters will be working the fire. Six amphibious water bombers from Alberta are stationed in Kelowna and will be available if required for the Terrace Mountain Fire.

With today's air action on the fire, RCMP request all boaters stay a minimum of 400 metres away from the Fintry area (Caesar's Landing to Killiney Beach) shoreline to ensure air tankers and helicopters working on the Terrace Mountain fire can safely do their work. Any residents within the evacuated area are reminded that should they choose to leave by boat, that they will not be allowed back into the area.

All evacuation orders and alerts remain in effect.

It's estimated approximately 2,213 people are on Evacuation Order in the following areas:

- District lots off South Terrace Mountain
- Caesar's Landing
- Ewing's Landing
- Nahun
- Valley of the Sun
- Muirallen Estates
- Estamont
- Aspen Shores
- Summersands
- La Casa
- Fintry Provincial Park and campground and Fintry Delta
- Killiney Beach and Wainman Cove

An estimated 2,458 people remain on Evacuation Alert in the following areas and should be prepared to leave their homes on short notice:

- Evely Forest Recreation Campsite
- Westshores
- Cinnibar Creek
- Cottages at Secret Point
- Shelter Cove
- Lake Okanagan Resort

- Jenny Creek
- Wilson's Landing
- Pine Point subdivision
- Traders Cove
- Bear Creek Provincial Park

Residents are reminded that until an Evacuation Order is issued, it is not necessary to evacuate – only to be on alert and ready to leave if an Evacuation Order is given. Should there be any change in that status residents will be advised through regular media channels. We encourage residents as part of their emergency planning and preparedness to ensure they have a battery powered or wind up radio

The Emergency Operations Centre is unable to determine how long Evacuation Orders and Alerts will remain in place and assesses the need daily.

The Emergency Social Services reception centre at the Vernon Recreation Centre (3310 37th Avenue) has registered approximately 300 people of the estimated 2,200 in the Evacuation area. If you live within the Evacuation area and require assistance with food, clothing or accommodation you are asked to register in person. If you don't require any assistance, you may register by phone at 250-550-7850.

Unfortunately, people falling into these two categories are not eligible for Emergency Social Services assistance. Visitors to the area should either find alternate accommodation or visit another area until the emergency is over. Those staying at summer cabins or renting for the summer, but have a permanent residence outside the evacuation area should either return home or seek other accommodation.

The public is asked to please stay out of areas under evacuation order to allow emergency services to focus on public safety.

Jeanette Hoft BC Hydro spokesperson would like to confirm that BC Hydro will keep power going for as long as possible. Safety of the public and our crews will remain our first priority. If our structures are threatened, and there's any possibility of poles coming down, we need to cut power to avoid electrified wires on the ground. With thunderstorm activity we have also had a number of other outages unrelated to the fires which our crews have restored as quickly and safely as possible.

A full listing of properties on Evacuation Order and Alert and updated maps regarding the Terrace Mountain fire is attached and will be posted on the Regional District website at www.regionaldistrict.com.

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Media Contacts
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250-469-8493