



News Release No. 57

Date: July 26, 2009

Time: 11:00 a.m.

KELOWNA: The Evacuation Alert has been rescinded for the estimated 17,500 residents affected in the Glenrosa and Rose Valley fires within the District of West Kelowna. As both fires are in the mop up stage and fire officials are confident the risk to public safety is low, those residents are no longer on Evacuation Alert.

All other Evacuation Orders and Alerts related to the Terrace Mountain forest fire remain in effect. However, Mother Nature has definitely helped in the ongoing battle against that fire.

The Ministry of Forests says weekend rain and cooler temperatures combined to assist BC Forest Service fire crews in building guards on the fire, which is estimated at 4,500 hectares and 50 per cent contained.

There are more than 260 fire fighters working on the fire assisted by over 90 pieces of heavy equipment, 16 helicopters and an additional 59 fire fighters with the Structural Protection Units from the BC Fire Commissioners office.

The Emergency Operation Centre says all existing Evacuation Orders and Alerts remain in effect. Approximately 1,018 people remain out of their homes in the Fintry area, Valley of the Sun, La Casa resort and District lots off South Terrace Mountain.

An estimated 1,200 people remain on short notice evacuation alert in the area from Ewings Landing to Killiney Beach. As well, approximately 2,458 people remain on Evacuation Alert in the Westshore, Wilson Landing, Trader's Cove and the Bear Creek Main to Bear Lake areas. All residents on Evacuation Alert must be prepared to leave their home on a moment's notice.

Westside Road remains closed on the south side of La Casa resort and Baziw Orchards on the north side of the area on Evacuation Order.

For information regarding the Terrace Mountain fires please call 250-469-8490 and staff will be pleased to assist you.

All news releases and maps are also available on the Regional District website, www.regionaldistrict.com by clicking on the Terrace Mountain Fire icon.

Those residents receiving assistance from the Emergency Social Services Vernon reception centre should note that the operation in the Vernon Recreation Centre on 37th Avenue is open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm in order to accommodate work schedules of those people who have been evacuated and may require extensions on their Emergency Social Services referral forms. There is no longer any phone registration so affected residents must appear in person at the Vernon reception centre, 3310 37th Avenue.

Regional District of Central Okanagan Board Chair Robert Hobson credits the diligent work of Vernon ESS volunteers and officials with the City of Vernon for the superb effort assisting residents of the North Westside during these challenging circumstances. “We extend our thanks to these and other organization for their great support and gracious hospitality for those residents that have been evacuated from their homes within the Central Okanagan as a result of the Terrace Mountain forest fire.”

For information regarding other forest fires in British Columbia is available online by visiting the Ministry of Forests webpage and click on Wildfire Update (www.gov.bc.ca/for/) or call 1-888-3FOREST (1-888-336-7378).

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