



**News Release No. 1**  
**Date: September 6, 2011**  
**Time: 3:05 a.m.**

**Regional District of Central Okanagan, B.C.** – Due to a forest fire in the Bear Creek Provincial Park area, adjacent to Westside Road, 106 homes and approximately 550 residents and visitors in Traders Cove, Bear Creek Service Road and Bear Creek Provincial Park have been evacuated. A State of Emergency has been declared by the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

The interface fire is approximately 20 hectares in size. District of West Kelowna, Ministry of Forests and Wilsons Landing Fire Services are attending. The fire was reported at 10:03 p.m., Monday, September 5, 2011. The Emergency Operations Centre has been activated.

Westside Road is closed from Sailview Bay in the south to Bear Main Forest Service Road in the north.

An Emergency Social Services Reception Centre has been set up at the Westbank Lions Hall at 2466 Main Street. Evacuees are asked to attend the reception centre to register.

Well-trained emergency response crews are responding to the situation and dealing with the priorities of the incident. Our first concern is for public safety and the safety of our emergency response personnel. We are working with other response agencies to manage the situation and minimize the impact it has on our community as a whole.

New information will be released to the media as soon as it becomes available. Media can contact [\(250\) 469-8493](tel:250-469-8493) if needed. Public inquiries can be directed to [250-469-8490](tel:250-469-8490).

The Public is asked to:

- Avoid the Westside Road area so emergency responders can effectively perform their duties
- Stay tuned to the media for further information. Please do not call the Fire Department or other emergency services for information.
- DO NOT CALL 911 unless it's a life threatening emergency

- Remain calm
- Stay by the phone to receive a call if a family member(s) may have been impacted.

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