



**News Release No. 4**  
**Date: September 6, 2011**  
**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

**Regional District of Central Okanagan, B.C.** – The BC Wildfire Management Branch and structural fire crews from West Kelowna and Wilsons Landing continue to battle a fire estimated at approximately 39-hectares in size burning above Westside Road. The blaze was reported after 10:00 pm last night in a steep terrain area above Traders Cove and Bear Creek Main Forest Service Road. At this point, no cause has been determined and no structures have been impacted.

BC Wildfire Management Branch air tankers dropped retardant this morning and helicopters continue to drop water on the fire. Heavy equipment is working the still active fire along with ground firefighters from the Ministry in the area above Westside Road.

Westside Road remains closed from Sailview Bay to the Bear Main Forest Service Road and signage has been placed ahead of the closures in both directions to advise motorists.

The Evacuation Order remains in effect for approximately 106 homes and 550 residents in Traders Cove, Bear Creek Forest Service Road and visitors to Bear Creek Provincial Park. Approximately 116 residents have reported and registered with the Emergency Support Services Reception Centre located at the Westbank Lions Community Hall, 2466 Main Street in West Kelowna. Evacuated residents are asked to register with the ESS staff in order to receive accommodation, food and clothing assistance.

An Evacuation Alert remains in effect for residents living along Westside Road, south of Bear Creek Provincial Park and north of Sailview Bay (901 Westside Road). These residents should be prepared to leave their homes on short notice and should make appropriate precautions in the event the evacuation area is extended. No other areas are affected at this time.

As helicopters are bucketing the fire and using Okanagan Lake, boaters are asked to please stay away from the west side of the lake to ensure their safety as crews fight the fire.

**Media Contacts:**

Bruce Smith

Public Information Officer

[\(250\) 469-8493](tel:(250)469-8493)

Kirsten Jones

Public Information Officer

[\(250\) 469-8493](tel:(250)469-8493)