



News Release No. 6

Date: September 6, 2011

Time: 5:35 p.m.

Regional District of Central Okanagan, B.C. – With great progress made on fighting the Bear Creek wildfire and supporting weather conditions, on a recommendation from the BC Wildfire Management Branch, effective at 6:00 pm this evening, the Emergency Operation Centre is rescinding the Evacuation Order affecting approximately 550 residents of Traders Cove and Bear Creek Main Forest Service Road and about 100 visitors to Bear Creek Provincial Park.

The area however remains on Evacuation Alert and residents should remain prepared to leave their homes with little notice should fire conditions change. While the fire in Bear Creek is still actively burning and is not completely contained residents in those areas that have been evacuated may return to their homes. Bear Creek Provincial Park is closed and no new visitors are being allowed in however, those who were evacuated early this morning may return to gather their belongings and leave the park.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has partially reopened Westside Road to single lane alternating traffic through the fire area. This will provide access as needed for emergency responders and fire crews.

The Evacuation Alert remains in effect for residents along Westside Road south of Bear Creek Provincial Park and north of Sailview Bay (901 Westside Road). These people should be prepared to leave their homes on short notice should fire behaviour change requiring an Evacuation Order.

The BC Wildfire Management Branch says the fire remains at 39-hectare size and is 30 per cent contained.

The blaze was reported after 10:00 pm last night in a steep terrain area above the trail area of Bear Creek Provincial Park. At this point, no cause has been determined and no structures have been impacted.

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