



News Release No. 44

Date: July 23, 2009

Time: 11:45 a.m.

KELOWNA: Here are the estimated numbers of people that are on now on Evacuation Order or Alert within the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

People on Evacuation Order (*Terrace Mountain fire*)

- Killiney to Caesar's Landing – 2,200
- Fintry High Farm – 13

People on Evacuation Alert (*must be ready to leave at a moment's notice*)

- Traders Cove and area – 1,095
- Westshores and area – 1,363
 - = **2,458 total for Westside Road**
- District of West Kelowna – Glenrosa and Rose Valley fires – 17,000

A reminder that residents who are now on Evacuation Order must travel north on Westside Road and report and register in person with Emergency Social Services at the reception centre located at the Vernon Recreation Centre, 3310 37th Avenue in the City of Vernon. Emergency Social Service volunteers are on hand to assist these evacuated residents with food, lodging and other needs. Residents with questions and queries regarding the evacuation and alerts may contact 250-469-8490 which does not incur long distance charges for North Westside Road residents using a cell phone.

Westside Road is closed to traffic at either end of the evacuation area. Residents are not allowed to return to the area now that the road is closed to all but emergency personnel.

RCMP and other officials are assisting these evacuated residents with an orderly and safe movement north along Westside Road to the Reception Centre. Please be aware of the possibility of encountering heavy equipment and fire resources along Westside Road. The public is asked to please stay out of areas under evacuation order to allow emergency services to focus on public safety and avoid any unnecessary travel on Westside Road.

It would be prudent for these residents under Evacuation Alert to begin preparations in case they must leave their homes on short notice. 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.

All previous Evacuation Alerts remain in effect and have not been changed. Those residents remain under Evacuation Alert.

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.

BC Hydro provides the following information for customers in the affected areas:

- BC Hydro will keep power on for as long as possible in the communities along Westside Road affected by the order to evacuate and currently on alert.
- Power to these communities will only be disconnected when we have an immediate threat to our structures in the area. BC Hydro is in close contact with Integrated Command who will notify us as soon as there is an immediate danger.
- People who are directed to evacuate under an Evacuation Order are asked to:
 1. Turn off all unnecessary appliances (such as air conditioning, hot tubs etc) and
 2. Unplug sensitive (TVs, computers etc.) equipment and
- We would like to use this opportunity to ask customers overall to be prepared for outages. Please visit www.bchydro.com/outages for information.

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Media Contacts
Public Information Officer
250-469-8493