



**News Release No. 53**

**Date: July 24, 2009**

**Time: 5:30 p.m.**

**KELOWNA:** Approximately 1,200 people will be allowed to return to some areas of Westside Road after 8 a.m. Saturday, July 25.

However, Emergency Operation Centre spokesmen emphasized that returning residents are on a Short Notice Evacuation Alert, meaning they might be asked to leave again at any time.

“Due to some favourable conditions caused by the rain, cooler weather and the work overnight and today of firefighters and heavy equipment operators, the evacuation order has been lifted with the caution that this is a huge fire that remains only 20 % contained and is relatively close to these inhabited areas,” said Jason Johnson, Deputy EOC Director.

Effective 8 am tomorrow, an area around Fintry remains on an Evacuation Order and Westside Road will remain closed between La Casa on the south side and Baziw Orchards on the north side. Those returning to homes south of La Casa must access their properties from the south, meaning if they are coming from Vernon, they must use Highway 97 through Kelowna to connect with Westside Road.

Deputy Incident Commander for the Forest Service Rob Krause says the change in condition offers a window of opportunity for these people to return and check their properties, secure or remove anything they were unable to retrieve when evacuated Thursday. Also, because the power was out in that area for a period of time Thursday, residents might want to check their perishable food supply and if they have any concerns Interior Health advises they should throw it out. Do not refreeze thawed foods.

Emergency Social Services for people in these areas ends with the lifting of the Evacuation Order. If an Evacuation Order is re-issued for these areas, residents will be able to re-register for ESS aid for food and lodging, but not for clothing. This is because people returning to the evacuated areas will have had ample time to take their clothing with them in the event they must evacuate again.

In addition, a state of emergency has been lifted for Peachland due to the containment of fires in Glenrosa and Rose Valley. Residents in those areas remain on alert, but Forest Service personnel report the fires are in mop-up mode.

Areas where Evacuation Order has been rescinded effective 8 am tomorrow and will be on Short Notice Evacuation Alert:

- Wainman Cove
- Marchbank
- Killiney Beach
- Aspen Shores
- Summersands
- Estamont
- Ewings Landing
- Nahun
- Caesar's Landing
- Shelter Cove

Areas still under an Evacuation Order are:

- Valley of the Sun
- Fintry Delta
- Fintry Provincial Park
- Upper Fintry
- Muirallen Estates
- La Casa
- Fintry High Farm
- District lots off South Terrace Mountain

Information regarding the Terrace Mountain fires or have any questions please call 250-469-8490 and staff will be pleased to assist you.