



News Release No. 54

Date: July 25, 2009

Time: 11:15 a.m.

KELOWNA: As of mid- morning Saturday, July 25th there has been a smooth transition of people heading back to their homes along Westside Road after a partial rescinding of the Evacuation Order in the Terrace Mountain forest fire. This took effect at 8 am this morning. Approximately 1,200 people who are allowed to return are reminded that they are on Short Notice Evacuation Alert and should be prepared to leave again on a moment's notice should conditions change with the forest fire.

RCMP say that there were no line ups when they began the controlled re-entry for residents in the Wainman Cove – Killiney Beach area on the north and the Nahun – Shelter Cove area in the south. They add it has been a smooth and manageable process as returning residents have been presenting the appropriate identification and documentation. Those returning to homes in the northern subdivisions must do so from Vernon. Those residents that reside south of La Casa must access their properties from the south, so if they are coming from Vernon, they must use Highway 97 through Kelowna to connect with Westside Road.

Police also report that as of mid-morning, there have been no reports of mischief or illegal activity in these areas.

Returning residents are advised that during this window of opportunity to return home, they should check their properties, secure or remove anything that they were unable to retrieve when they were evacuated Thursday.

Emergency Social Services for people in these areas has ended with this morning's 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.

Motorists are reminded that Westside Road is now closed between La Casa on the south side and Baziw Orchards on the north side of the area that remains on Evacuation Order. Approximately 1,018 people remain out of their homes in the following areas:

Valley of the Sun

Fintry High Farm
Fintry Delta
Upper Fintry
Fintry Provincial Park
Muirallen Estates
La Casa
District lots off South Terrace Mountain

The Ministry of Forests says the Terrace Mountain fire is estimated at 4,500 hectares and is 25 per cent contained. High humidity and recent precipitation are leading to quieter fire behavior and allow fire crews to bolster efforts to complete their fire guards. Among the resources on site are 250 BC Forest Service fire fighters, eight helicopters, 27 water tenders, 48 pieces of heavy equipment and an additional 56 fire fighters working with the Structural Protection Units. Additional air support includes six amphibious water bombers that are available if required.

The Ministry also asks the public to stay out of the Terrace Mountain fire fighting area. There will be high activity around the fire as heavy equipment and crews are being transported and positioned. As this is an active fire site, recreation and road closures may be implemented at any time. Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft will also be working requiring access to Okanagan Lake in order to scoop up water. Boaters are reminded to stay at least 400 meters from the western lake shoreline so that they don't interfere with the ability of aircraft to do their work.

All other Evacuation Alerts remain in effect at this time for the Terrace Mountain, Rose Valley and Glenrosa fires.

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

All news releases and maps are also available on the Regional District website, www.regionaldistrict.com by clicking on the Terrace Mountain Fire icon.

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Background

Terrace Mountain Fire

Areas where Evacuation Order has been rescinded effective 8 am Saturday, July 25th and are on Short Notice Evacuation Alert (approximately 1,200 people):

- Wainman Cove
- Marchbank
- Killiney Beach

- Aspen Shores
- Summersands
- Estamont
- Ewings Landing
- Nahun
- Caesar's Landing
- Shelter Cove

Areas still on Evacuation Alert (approximately 2,458 people)

- Westshore
- Traders Cove
- Wilson's Landing
- Bear Creek Main to Bear Lake

Areas still under an Evacuation Order (approximately 1,018 people):

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

West Kelowna Glenrosa/Rose Valley fires – approximately 17,500 people