



News Release No. 58

Date: July 27, 2009

Time: 1:30 p.m.

KELOWNA: The Evacuation Order for several properties known as the District lots off South Terrace Mountain has been rescinded and replaced with an Evacuation Alert. It's believed there are five residents affected by the lifting of the Evacuation Order. They are reminded that they are still on Evacuation Alert and should be prepared to leave their homes on short notice, should conditions with the Terrace Mountain forest fire change.

The Emergency Operation Centre reminds residents of the North Westside that all other Evacuation Orders and Alerts remain in effect. An estimated 1,013 residents living in the Fintry area, Valley of the Sun and La Casa resort are still on Evacuation Order. The estimated 1,200 residents in the Killiney Short Notice Evacuation Alert and the Caesar's Landing Short Notice Evacuation Alert areas must be prepared to leave their homes at a moment's notice. Another approximately 2,508 residents remain on Evacuation Alert in the Westshore – Beau Park and Wilson's Landing – Trader's Cove and Bear Creek Main to Bear Lake Evacuation Alert areas and should be ready to leave their home should that status change.

Officials with Incident Command, RCMP, Ministry of Forests and North Westside Fire Rescue are continuing to work together with a unified command and response relating to the Terrace Mountain forest fire.

EOC Director Harold Reay says, "Everyone involved with the response to this fire, estimated at 4,500 hectares, is working together, from the fire fighters on the ground with the BC Forest Service, the structural fire fighting component, RCMP and North Westside Fire Rescue paid on-call volunteers. They've met to clarify the process so that North Westside Fire District fire fighters will continue to have access to the evacuated area in order to handle their duties within the fire district. The continued goal of everyone involved with fighting this forest fire is for public safety and security."

Regional District Chair Robert Hobson also recognizes the valued efforts of the Emergency Social Services volunteers. "These people who serve the various communities along North Westside Road have been doing yeoman service to assist their neighbours throughout the fire. Many have been evacuated themselves and have joined with Emergency Social Services volunteers in Vernon to continue providing their

talents and expertise, while out of their homes. We truly salute the efforts of this important volunteer contingent for their selfless dedication.”

Late this morning, the Evacuation Alert was rescinded for the estimated 17,500 residents affected in the Glenrosa and Rose Valley fires within the District of West Kelowna. As both fires are in the mop up stage and fire officials are confident the risk to public safety is low, those residents are no longer on Evacuation Alert.

Westside Road remains closed on the south side of La Casa resort and Baziw Orchards on the north side of the area on Evacuation Order.

For information regarding the Terrace Mountain fires 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.

Those residents receiving assistance from the Emergency Social Services Vernon reception centre should note that the operation in the Vernon Recreation Centre on 37th Avenue is open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm in order to accommodate work schedules of those people who have been evacuated and may require extensions on their Emergency Social Services referral forms. There is no longer any phone registration so affected residents must appear in person at the Vernon reception centre, 3310 37th Avenue.

For information regarding other forest fires in British Columbia is available online by visiting the Ministry of Forests webpage www.bcwildfire.ca or call 1-888-3FOREST that's 1-888-336-7378.

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