



News Release No. 62

Date: July 30, 2009

Time: 10:45 a.m.

KELOWNA: For the second time in less than a week, another group of North Westside Road area residents have made a smooth return to their homes.

At 8:00 this morning, RCMP began the controlled access for people living and visiting the Fintry, Valley of the Sun and La Casa Resort areas that had been on Evacuation Order because of the Terrace Mountain wildfire. It's estimated 1,000 people are now able to return to the area, but are reminded even though the Evacuation Order is no longer in place, they remain on Evacuation Alert because the fire is still actively burning. Returning residents and visitors to the area must be prepared to leave again with short notice should fire conditions change and threaten their area. As each vehicle moved through the road stop, RCMP handed out an Evacuation Alert information sheet in an effort to reiterate that the area is still on alert.

Once home, returning residents should check their properties, secure or remove anything that they were unable to retrieve when they were evacuated.

Westside Road is completely open for all north and southbound traffic.

With the cooperation of BC Parks, Fintry Provincial Park remains closed because the Ministry of Forests is utilizing it for staging in continued efforts to fight the forest fire. The Ministry says the Terrace Mountain wildfire is 4,500-hectares and 85 per cent contained with an estimated 150 kilometres of fire guard. When weather conditions permit, the Ministry says fire specialists will continue to back burn fuels between the fire guard and the main fire. As a result, there may be increased visible smoke from the fire.

The Evacuation Order remains in effect for the Fintry High Farms area. This order affects approximately 13 residents.

The Vernon ESS reception centre will close at 5:00 pm today. Emergency Social Services will continue to provide assistance for food, lodging and clothing to Fintry High Farms area residents from the Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary reception centre, 2751 Cameron Road in West Kelowna. As the Evacuation Order remains in place for them, those residents must apply in person to receive renewal assistance.

The Emergency Operation Centre says all previous Alerts remain in effect for the Terrace Mountain forest fire. An estimated 1,200 residents of the Killiney and Caesar's Landing Short Notice Evacuation Alert areas must continue to be prepared to leave their homes on short notice. Another 2,508 residents are still on Evacuation Alert in the Westshore-Beau Park, District lots off Terrace Main, 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.

The Emergency Operations Centre reminds everyone that all orders and alerts are assessed on a daily basis with information and recommendations provided from the West Kelowna Complex fire incident command.

The latest information, news releases and maps are also available on the Regional District website, www.regionaldistrict.com by clicking on the Terrace Mountain Fire icon. General Information is also available by contacting the Call Centre at 250-469-8490.

For more information regarding other forest fires in British Columbia visit the Ministry of Forests webpage www.wildfirebc.ca or call 1-888-3FOREST (1-888-336-7378).

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