



News Release No. 64

Date: July 31, 2009

Time: 11:30 a.m.

KELOWNA: With the long weekend approaching, the Emergency Operation Centre reminds everyone in the Central Okanagan that Evacuation Orders and Alerts remain in effect in communities along Westside Road as a result of the Terrace Mountain forest fire.

Ten properties in the Fintry High Farm area are still on Evacuation Order. Approximately 13 residents are affected.

Emergency Social Services has provided food, lodging and clothing referral assistance from the reception centre located at Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary School in West Kelowna. It will be open until 4:00 pm this afternoon. Any further assistance for these evacuated residents will be provided by calling the Emergency Social Services Coordinator at 250-215-1789.

Residents and visitors to Westside Road communities from the Wilson Landing/Trader's Cove area on the south to the Westshore/Beau Park area in the north including the District lots on Terrace Mountain remain on Alert while those in the Caesar's Landing, Fintry and Killiney areas remain on Short Notice Alert. These alerts affect an estimated 3,600 people who must be prepared to leave on a moment's notice should the fire threat increase. A map with the complete list of communities and their status is available on the Regional District website www.regionaldistrict.com and clicking on the Terrace Mountain Fire icon.

In order to protect public health and safety as a result of the wildfire, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts yesterday announced the closure of the Bear Creek Motorized Recreation Site #31768. The order from the Ministry's Okanagan Recreation District Recreation Officer advises that this area is closed until further notice to camping, off road motor vehicles including but not limited to dirt bikes, ATV's as well as hiking.

The Ministry of Forests says the Terrace Mountain wildfire is still estimated at 4,500 hectares and 90 per cent contained. More than 320 firefighters, 84 pieces of heavy equipment and 16 helicopters are continuing to attack the blaze. Fire specialists are continuing to monitor weather conditions and may conduct fuel burn off activities when conditions permit. These burns could result in more visible smoke.

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 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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