



News Release No. 66

Date: August 1, 2009

Time: 8:30 p.m.

KELOWNA: The Emergency Operation Centre has issued an Evacuation Order for the approximately 1,500 residents in the Caesar's Short Notice and Wilson's Landing – Trader's Cove Evacuation Areas and the district lots off South Terrace Main.

This order means residents should immediately leave their homes and travel south along Westside Road and register with the Emergency Social Services reception centre at Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary School, 2751 Cameron Road in West Kelowna. Volunteers are on hand to assist these people with food and group lodging accommodation. With the long weekend there are no hotel rooms available tonight for any evacuated residents.

The communities affected by this new Evacuation Order are:

- Caesar's Landing
- Nahun
- Shelter Cove
- District lots off South Terrace Main
- Wilson's Landing
- Trader's Cove
- Bear Creek Main to Bear Lake
- Bear Creek Provincial Park

Late this afternoon, an Evacuation Order was enacted affecting approximately 1,200 residents in the Fintry, Upper Fintry, Muirallen Estates, Valley of the Sun and La Casa resort. They are also reporting to the Emergency Social Services reception centre.

This is an Important Road update for evacuated residents. RCMP advise all residents of La Casa Resort and the previously evacuated areas tonight in Fintry Delta, Upper Fintry, Valley of the Sun and Muirallen Estates to head north on Westside Road, travelling through Vernon, Lake Country and Kelowna to the ESS reception centre at Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary School, 2751 Cameron Road in West Kelowna. All residents south of La Casa Resort should drive south along Westside Road to report to the Emergency Social Services reception centre at Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary, 2751 Cameron Road in West Kelowna.

RCMP assisted by members of Vernon Search and Rescue have started going door to door in the areas affected by the Evacuation Orders to advise people that they should leave their homes.

People concerned about their animals are asked to call 250-809-7152 (Critter Aid/CDART) or 250-770-0197 (Dean Environmental). Representatives will be available to assist evacuated residents at the reception centre.

Anyone who can provide temporary accommodation for one or two nights to evacuated residents is asked to go to the Emergency Social Services reception centre at Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary School, 2751 Cameron Road in West Kelowna and speak to an ESS volunteer.

As well, ten properties in the Fintry High Farm area are still on Evacuation Order. Approximately 13 residents are affected.

Residents and visitors to Westside Road communities from the Killiney and Westshore/Beau Park area in the north remain on Alert. These alerts affect an estimated 2,163 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 will be available on the Regional District website www.regionaldistrict.com and 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).

BC Hydro provides the following important information for residents in the evacuation areas:

Power Supply in Affected Areas

- BC Hydro will keep power on for as long as possible in the communities on Westside Road **and areas** affected by the latest Evacuation Order and Alerts
- Power to these communities will only be disconnected when there is an immediate threat to BC Hydro infrastructure in the area or if directed by Provincial officials. BC Hydro is in direct contact with the EOC who will notify us if the **fires pose** a threat **to lines**.
- We will work as quickly as possible to restore power after any disruptions but employee and public safety is our top priority.

Evacuation Preparedness

- People who are directed to evacuate under an Evacuation Order are asked to:
 1. Turn off all unnecessary appliances (such as air conditioning, hot tubs etc) and
 2. Unplug sensitive (TVs, computers etc.) equipment and
- Turn off all lights except for one light outside which will indicate to BC Hydro crews that power is on.

Safety

- The safety of BC Hydro crews and the public remains a priority and we are working closely with local authorities to ensure that we are taking all precautions as we enter affected areas.
- Never go near or touch a fallen power line. Always assume that a line or anything contacting it is energized. Stay at least ten metres (33 feet) away at all times and do not attempt to remove debris surrounding the line. If you see a fallen power line, report the exact location to 1 888 POWERON.

Outage preparation

- We continue to encourage our customers to make greater preparations for electricity outages should they occur as we are in the middle of the fire season.

We ask that customers elsewhere in BC to take this opportunity to prepare for the possibility of outages related to the fire. For more information please visit www.bchydro.com

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Public Information Office
Bruce Smith
250-469-8493