

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

BC WILDFIRE UPDATE: JULY 17, 2017

Updated as of 4:00 pm, Monday July 17, 2017

UPDATES:

- As of Monday, July 17, 2017, there are 162 wildfires burning across B.C. spanning greater than 131,000 hectares.
- Twenty First Nations communities are affected by the wildfires.
- The wildfires have already displaced around 40,000 people; another 27,000 people have been told they may need to leave their homes at a moment's notice.
- The city of Williams Lake has been ordered to evacuate; evacuees have been sent to Kamloops, BC (the Sandman Centre in Kamloops is serving as a wildfire evacuee reception centre)
- Apart from Prince George and Kamloops, additional evacuation centres are opening in Vernon, Kelowna, Chilliwack, Surrey, and Salmon Arm.
- The Thompson-Nicola Regional District has now posted an evacuation alert for areas around Little Fort and north to Clearwater, including the now all-important junction of Hwy. 24 and Hwy. 5, warning of imminent danger from fires and telling people to be ready to flee on a moment's notice.
- T'kemlups te Secwepemc (Kamloops) have opened their powwow grounds for evacuees. The grounds provide showers, RV space, and food. T'kemlups te Secwepemc may have space for livestock, as well as resources such as water and hay. For information call Ron @ 250-819-8012. Approximately 500-600 people are on site, and are receiving 3 meals a day. First Aid and mental health services are available. There is a need for greater Emergency Services Society support.
- If you have concerns that need to be addressed regarding equipment, resources, etc, please bring to the attention of Janice Franklin, 778-679-1921, Janice.Franklin@gov.bc.ca.
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BC FIRST NATIONS ADVISORIES:

Central Region (Cariboo Fire Centre)

Ashcroft First Nation

Ashcroft remains on an evacuation order, approximately 100 people evacuated. RCMP have been escorting members to and from the community. Damage assessment training will occur on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, at Ashcroft Elementary, beginning at 9:30 am.



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UNION OF
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INDIAN CHIEFS

500-342 Water Street
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Ph: 604-684-0231
Fx: 604-684-5726

Primary Contact: Chief Greg Blain (250) 457-7130.

Bonaparte Indian Band

Bonaparte remains on an evacuation order. Several community members have remained to monitor and prevent the fire. An account has been set up to accept donations for Bonaparte Indian Band at Royal Bank. Primary contact: Kukpi7 Ryan Day: (250)-457-3025.

Cooks Ferry Indian Band

Cooks Ferry is currently not under an evacuation order or evacuation alert. Cooks Ferry continue to monitor the wildfire situation. Primary contact: Chief David Walkem (250)-315-8508 or (250)-458-2224.

Skeetchestn Indian Band

The community remains on alert and is monitoring the fire patterns. The community continues to take precautionary measures. A Band Council Resolution for Alert is in place, and the community remains prepared. Primary contact: Kukpi7Ron Ignace: kukpi7.ignace@gmail.com

Simpcw First Nation

Simpcw is not under an evacuation alert, or an evacuation order. The community is prepared in the event conditions worsen, is following emergency plans, and have established an operations center. Primary contact: Shelley Lampreau 250-571-4886 or by email shelley.lampreau@simpcw.com.

Whispering Pines

Community is on evacuation alert, and the community continue to monitor the situation. Primary contact: Chief Steve Tresierra, 780-910-7067.

Northeast Region (Prince George Fire Centre)

Alexis Creek First Nation

Alexis Creek remains under partial evacuation. The community has organized crews to enact preventative measures for their community, and has made requests for fire equipment. Some families from Anaham are staying in Alexis Creek. The ARDG provided the Northeast PREOC Aboriginal Liaison's contact information to follow up on the fire equipment. Primary contact: Chief Evan Charleyboy: (250)-305-4459 OR Councilor Percy Guichon: (250)-267-2507

Canim Lake Indian Band

Canim Lake remains under an evacuation order for 1 person at IR#4, and an Evacuation Alert for the rest of the community. The band office remains open at Canim Lake, as well as the Emergency Operations Centre. There is a need for greater resources. Canim Lake continues to monitor the

situation and is communicating regularly with EMBC. BCR for alert remains in place.

Primary contact: Chief Mike Archie: (250)-397-2227 OR Command Center: (250)-397-2253

Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek/Dog Creek)

Both communities are under an evacuation alert. The Canoe Creek side has no power or communications. A number of community members have evacuated to Kamloops due to health concerns. Satellite phones have been received and contact info will be updated as it becomes available.

?Esdilagh First Nation

?Esdilagh remains on an Evacuation Order, more details will be provided at they come in.

Primary contact: Chief Roy Stump (250)-983-8348.

Esk'etemc First Nation

The community is on evacuation order. Food and resources are needed.

Primary contact: Kukpi7 Charlene Belleau, (250) 305-8784.

Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation

The community is on evacuation alert. Will update contact information as it becomes available.

Soda Creek First Nation (Xat'sull)

Soda Creek remains on an evacuation order. Immediate assistance is required in supplying food for firefighters who have remained in place.

Primary contact: Chief Donna Dixon, (250) 267-7464.

Tl'etinqox Government

TNG has set up an office at the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council. Community remains under evacuation order. Many community members have remained to fight the fires. Elders and children have been relocated.

Financial contributions are welcome by Paypal: <http://www.tsilhqotin.ca>.

Primary contact: Tsilhqotin National Government, (250)-392-3918.

Williams Lake Indian Band

Williams Lake is on an evacuation order. The community is seeking food resources for remaining firefighters. Community members were evacuated on Sunday, July 16, 2017.

Primary contact: Chief Ann Louie: (250)-267-9450

Yunesit'in Government

An evacuation order is in place. Yunesit'in fire fighters and other services are currently working to contain the fire. Community members have evacuated to Kamloops, Penticton, and surrounding areas, as per the BCR evacuation order.

Primary contact: Chief Russ Myers (250)-302-2189 or rmross@yunestlin.ca.

HIGHWAY CLOSURES:

For the latest road closures and conditions, visit www.drivebc.ca.

- **Highway 1 from the Highway 97C junction near Ashcroft to about 5 kilometres east of Cache Creek**
- **Highway 97 from Cache Creek to Clinton**
- **Highway 99 from Highway 97 Junction to Hat Creek Road. Local Traffic only from Lillooet to Hat Creek Road**
- **Highway 97 from junction of Highway 24 to Timothy Lake Road (25 kilometres north of 100 Mile House), but open southbound for evacuees**
- **Highway 97 from Williams Lake to McLeese Lake**
- **Highway 5A between Princeton and Allison Lake**
- **Highway 97 southbound between Kersley (15 kilometres south of Quesnel) and McLeese Lake**
- **Highway 20 is open to eastbound traffic only. It's closed to westbound traffic (except emergency vehicles and first responders) at the Sheep Creek/Chilcotin Bridge, 25 kilometres west of Williams Lake to 5 kilometres west of Alexis Creek**
- **Highway 24 At Horse Lake Road (30 kilometres from 100 Mile House) to all traffic destined for 100 Mile House but open for traffic headed to Clinton.**
- **Highway 1 westbound from Savona to Cache Creek**

AIR QUALITY

The First Nations Health Authority continues to monitor air quality. Air quality advisories are in place for:

- 100 Mile House
- Cariboo - north including Quesnel
- Cariboo - south including Williams Lake
- Fraser Canyon - north including Lillooet
- Fraser Canyon - south including Lytton
- Nicola
- North Thompson
- South Thompson
- Central Okanagan
- North Okanagan
- South Okanagan
- Prince George
- Vanderhoof

- Shuswap
- Similkameen

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Red Cross Emergency Funds: Anyone registered with the Red Cross will immediately receive \$600 via direct transfer to their bank account. To register, or if you have been evacuated, click on the following link www.redcross.ca/gethelp or call 1-800-863-6582.

British Columbia Fires Appeal donation information: www.redcross.ca

Red Cross Emergency Preparedness information and tips:
www.redcross.ca/beready

BC Emergency Preparedness
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/emergencyprogramact/2016/01/11/discussion10/>

The Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Center (PREOC) may be able to coordinated requests for resources for communities on Evacuation Alert.
PREOC Northeast Region Contact: (250)-612-4172
PREOC Central Region Contact: (250)-371-5240

For affected workers, Service Canada is making every effort to provide direct assistance to workers and communities during this difficult time: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/portfolio/service-canada/wildfires-british-columbia.html>

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC DAILY REGIONAL TELECONFERENCES

For specific support in regional areas please call:
Central Region (Kamloops) 250-371-5261
Northeast Region (Prince George) 250-614-6322

There are **First Nation Coordination calls** based on the regions

- **Northeast region – daily calls at 2:00 pm**
Dial in 1-877-353-9184 participant ID 6160606#
- **Central Region – daily calls at 3:00 pm**
Dial in 1-877-353-9184 Participant ID 5166580#

If you require any further information or support, please contact UBCIC, FNS or BCAFN.

Please send community updates to curtis.bedwell@bcfn.ca.