

# FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



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## BC Wildfire Update: July 24, 2017

Updated as of 4:00 PM, Monday July 24, 2017

**\*\*Note: We apologize for any discrepancy in information. Information is sourced from various Provincial/Federal updates. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any revisions\*\***

### Updates:

- As of Monday July 24, 2017, there are approximately 153 wildfires burning across B.C. 22 of these fires are considered “wildfires of note”. No significant growth is being reported at the fires at this time.
- Although the weather has turned a bit cooler with rainfall in areas throughout the Province, generally the weather is expected to remain hot and dry for the immediate future, and British Columbia is planning for a minimum 60-90-day response period.
- 20 First Nations communities are affected by the wildfires (15 evacuated, 2 under alert, 2 hosting evacuees and 1 undertaking wildland firefighting preparation activities).
- Residents of Princeton, 100 Mile House, 108 Mile House and Horse Lake were able to return home this past weekend, the communities remain on evacuation alert.
- Planning for re-entry is currently underway for communities at and around Williams Lake, updates to follow as information becomes available. Communities can assist or obtain information by calling their regional PREOC center.
- Evacuees are eligible for financial assistance for a second payment of 600\$.
- Costs to the Province are estimated to be \$125.8 million, with 4082 firefighters fighting the fires. Many of these fire fighters are based out of province, and in various parts of the world such as New Zealand and Australia.
- 47,412 people have registered with Red Cross to date.
- The powwow grounds at Tk'emlups te Secwepmec (Kamloops) remain open for evacuees. The grounds provide showers, RV space and food. Tk'emlups te Secwepmec 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. First Aid and mental health support services are available.
- Tk'emlups Powwow Grounds are also providing Status Card services for those in need.

### Information on Wildfires of Note

For detailed information regarding BC's wildfires of note:

<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp>

### Evacuation Orders and Alerts:

For the latest updates for evacuation orders and alerts, check

<http://www.emergencyinfbc.gov.bc.ca>

**Information for returning home from an Evacuation Order:**

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/returning-home>

**BC FIRST NATIONS ADVISORIES**

**Central Region (Cariboo Fire Center)**

**Ashcroft First Nation**

Ashcroft is coordinating with the Central Region PREOC to mobilize support teams for Critical Incidents and communities impacted by wildfires. Advanced planning is under way regarding home replacement, pump house repairs and air quality assessments. Primary Contact: Chief Greg Blain (250) 457-7130.

**Bonaparte Indian Band**

Bonaparte remains on standby, with an evacuation alert in place. Red Cross has been onsite, and have signed people up for support services and resources. Primary contact: Kukpi7 Ryan Day: (250) 457-3025.

**Cooks Ferry Indian Band**

Cook's Ferry is operating normally. Poor air quality is being monitored by on-site nurses. 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 with an operational Emergency Operations Centre. The community is maintaining a fire watch program. Primary contact: Kukpi7Ron Ignace: [kukpi7.ignace@gmail.com](mailto:kukpi7.ignace@gmail.com)

**Simpcw First Nation**

Simpcw is not under an evacuation alert, or an evacuation order. The community is prepared with an Emergency Operations Centre ready if needed. Primary contact: Shelley Lampreau (250) 571-4886 or by email [shelley.lampreau@simpcw.com](mailto:shelley.lampreau@simpcw.com).

**Whispering Pines**

Whispering Pines is on evacuation alert, and the community continue to monitor the situation. The community is focused on preparedness; and necessary fire-fighting equipment is in place. Primary contact: Chief Steve Tresierra, (780) 910-7067.

**Northeast Region (Prince George Fire Center)**

**Alexis Creek First Nation (Tsideldel)**

Alexis Creek is not under an evacuation order, or alert. The community has organized crews to enact preventative measures for their community. Fire-fighters from Alexis Creek are assisting the T'letinqox Government (Anaham). A Band Council Resolution is in place. Primary contact: Chief Evan Charleyboy: (250) 305-4459 OR Councillor Percy Guichon: (250) 267-2507

**Canim Lake Indian Band**

Canim Lake remains under an Evacuation Alert; the band is focused on advanced planning. Some members are beginning to return home as the Evacuation Order for the 100 Mile House Region has lifted.

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

**?Esdilagh First Nation**

?Esdilagh remains on an evacuation order. Permits have been issued to bring food and equipment in for fire fighters who are still in the community.

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

**Esk'etemc First Nation**

The community is on evacuation order. Provincial officials have provided a satellite phone; and a Band Council Resolution has been submitted.

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

**Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation**

The community is on evacuation alert. The situation is being monitored, and the community is prepared in the event an evacuation order is issued.

Primary contact: (250) 992-3290

**Soda Creek First Nation (Xat'sull)**

Soda Creek remains on an evacuation order. PREOC assistance has been requested. No new updates are available at this time.

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

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

Both communities are under an evacuation alert. A number of community members have evacuated to Kamloops due to health concerns. Satellite phones have been received.

Primary contact: (250) 440-5645

**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. Power has been restored. Tletinqox are requesting resources for fuel, food and supporting equipment.

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

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

**Toosey First Nation**

Community fire fighters and the BC Wildfire Service are currently working together, with possibly more support on the way – permits for access are being worked on.

Primary contact: Chief Laceese (250) 659-5655

**Ulkatcho Indian Band**

Fire prevention strategies are in place, along with prepped equipment. The situation is stable, and community members are prepared.

Contact: (250)-742-3260 OR (250) 742-3288

### **Williams Lake Indian Band**

Williams Lake is currently on an evacuation order. The Cariboo Regional District and provincial officials confirmed that they will contact the First Nation in the next few days to discuss plans for re-entry. Information on the situation will be updated as it comes.  
Primary contact: Chief Ann Louie, (250) 267-2688

### **Yunesit'in Government**

An evacuation order is in place. Yunesit'in fire fighters and other services are currently working to combat 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@yunestin.ca](mailto:rmross@yunestin.ca).

### **HIGHWAY CLOSURES AND UPDATES:**

For the latest road closures and conditions, visit [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)

- Highway 20 open to eastbound traffic only. Closed to westbound traffic (Except Emergency Vehicles and First Responders) at the Sheep Creek/Chilcotin Bridge, 25 km west of Williams Lake to 5 km west of Alexis Creek. No detour available. Assessment ongoing.
- Highway 97 closed in both directions (except emergency vehicles and first responders) from Williams Lake to North of Lac La Hache at Wright Station Road (60.8 km). Check points remain in effect. Evacuation order still in place for Williams Lake, with the egress route being Highway 97 southbound. No estimated time of opening; assessment ongoing.
- Highway 97 closed in both directions (except emergency vehicles and first responders) from Williams Lake to McLeese Lake (43). Check points remain in effect. Evacuation order still in place for Williams Lake, with the egress route being Highway 97 southbound. No estimated time of opening; assessment ongoing.

### **AIR QUALITY ADVISORIES**

For updates on air quality advisories, check [https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index\\_e.html?prov=bc](https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=bc)

Air Quality Advisories remain in place for the following locations:

- 100 Mile House
- Cariboo
- Chilcotin
- North Thompson

### **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](http://www.redcross.ca/gethelp) or call 1-800-863-6582.

British Columbia Fires Appeal donation information: [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)

Red Cross Emergency Preparedness information and tips: [www.redcross.ca/beready](http://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. For information contact or email:

**PREOC Northeast Region Contact:**

Call: (250) 612-4172

Email: [PREOC5.FN1@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PREOC5.FN1@gov.bc.ca)

**PREOC Central Region Contact:**

Call: (250) 371-5240

Email: [PREOC3.FN1@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PREOC3.FN1@gov.bc.ca)

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 or email:

**Central Region (Kamloops) (250) 371-5261**

**Northeast Region (Prince George) (250) 614-6322**

**PREOC First Nation Coordination calls (Regionally based)**

- **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](mailto:curtis.bedwell@bcfn.ca)