



## Conferencing Solutions – Confirmation

2017/08/23

### Government of British Columbia

#### Your TELUS Contact

Contact Name: **Frederick Cusinato**  
Contact Phone Number: **1-888-975-1325**  
E-Mail Address: **coords.teleconferencing@telus.com**

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Chairperson: **Emergency Management BC**  
Name of Call: **BC Wildfire Update**  
Contact Person: **Julianne McCaffrey**  
Contact Number: **250-888-8074**  
Contact E-mail Address: **Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca**  
Lines Reserved: **60 (plus auto extend)**

Date	Confirmation Number	Time
Wednesday, July 26	<b>1221426</b>	09:00-11:00 PST (pre-test 8:30am)
COULD BE BUMPED TO 10 AM		

Dial In Numbers: s.15,s.17 Vancouver  
from Canada and USA

Participant Pass Code: s.15,s.17

Speakers Pass Code: s.15,s.17

#### Special Instructions

If you are experiencing difficulties a TELUS liaison will be available at 604-230-9524.

**\*\*Please note that this number is only for speakers use and should not be shared with participants\*\***



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Private Secured Sub Conference for Speakers:

The TELUS lead Q&A agent will greet 3 separate speakers:

1. **Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General: Mike Farnworth**
2. **Robert Turner, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC**
3. **Mary Sue Maloughney from BC Wildfire Service**

**“Welcome to this special BC Wildfire update conference call. You have joined the secured private meeting for speakers. May I have your name please?”** The lead Q&A agent will introduce themselves and give an update of how many participants are standing by in the Q&A meeting. When the speakers are ready to start the presentation, they can address the lead Q&A agent who will be standing by.

The lead agent will then transfer the speakers into the meeting with the introduction: **Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, “Welcome to this special BC Wildfire Update. I would now like to turn it over to Minister Mike Farnworth, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.** This will be the cue to start the presentation.

Meet and Greet:

TELUS agents will facilitate the Meet and Greet. There will be ‘hold music’ for the participants until the presentation begins. The participants are in ‘listen-only’ mode during the presentation. Participants will be greeted with the phrase. **Welcome to this special BC Wildfire update. May I have your name & media outlet? Thank you; please stand by for the call to commence.”**

**A list of participants will be e-mailed to (Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca) following the conference call.**

**\*\*Please be advised that if Meet and Greet service is required, it is recommended to have your participants dial into your call at least 15 minutes early in order to ensure all names are captured before the start of the call.\*\***

Stand-By Message:

A frequent stand-by message will be given until the start of the call. This stand-by message will be: **“Please stand-by for today’s special BC Wildfire update. The call will begin shortly. Thank you.”**

#### Question and Answer:

When the cue is given to start the question and answer session, the lead Q&A agent will provide instructions to ask a question. **The lead Q&A agent will then announce the first participant's name & media outlet and prompt them to ask their question.** Their line will be temporarily un-muted while they ask their question. They will be returned to 'listen-only' mode after their turn is complete and the next participant in line will be announced. During the question and answer period instructions are as follows:

To ask a question:            Press 01  
To exit question queue:      Press #

#### Closing Statement:

Once the call has been concluded, the lead Q&A agent will provide the following closing message: **"Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes the special BC Wildfire Update. Thank you for your participation and have a nice day."**

#### Recording:

Mp3 to **Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca** (PN0000018235344)

#### Playback on Demand:

NOT NEEDED.

Speaking Points For The

**HON. MIKE FARNWORTH**  
**MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL**

Wednesday, July 26, 2017  
9:00 A.M.

Emergency Management BC Headquarters  
Suite 200, 2261 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton

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Public safety is paramount in every decision made by the Province when we are dealing with emergencies like the wildfires of the past few weeks.

- Our province has experienced historic levels of evacuations, due to unprecedented fire behaviour with explosive growth and volatility.
- We've applied unparalleled resources to firefighting and to support evacuees because of the scope and scale of both the risk and the impacts.

Although some of the conditions have eased, like the high winds that fanned the flames earlier on, the hot and dry weather conditions continue to make these wildfires a high risk for many communities.

The threat remains particularly high in the region of Williams Lake, which was issued an evacuation order on July 15.

- The wildfire that was burning then still burns uncontrolled, just on the other side of the mountain adjacent the city.

Wildfire behaviour specialists believe there is an imminent risk to life safety still for residents of Williams Lake and as such, advise that the order needs to stay in place.

Page 05

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Speaking Points For The

**HON. MIKE FARNWORTH**  
**MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL**

Thursday, July 27, 2017  
1:00 P.M.

call in: <sup>s.15,s.17</sup> / passcode <sup>s.15,s.17</sup>

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**Public safety is paramount in every decision made by the Province when we are dealing with emergencies like the wildfires of the past few weeks.**

- Our province has experienced historic levels of evacuations, due to unprecedented fire behaviour with explosive growth and volatility.
- We've applied unparalleled resources to firefighting and to support evacuees because of the scope and scale of both the risk and the impacts.

**Although some of the conditions have eased, like the high winds that fanned the flames earlier on, the hot and dry weather conditions continue to make these wildfires a high risk for many communities.**

**Just yesterday we saw increased volatility in the wildfires in the Williams Lake region, so while we are pleased by the announcement made today by the City of Williams Lake, Williams Lake Indian Band and the Cariboo Regional District about the limited return of some residents, we urge continued caution.**

**We all understand that lives were disrupted in Williams Lake, and we understand the desire to go home, to have life resume, to have some semblance of normal back... but our first priority and foremost interest must be public safety.**

**So residents should use an abundance of caution as they determine their unique needs before rushing home. As well, it's important to consult the local authority on what specific areas are permitted re-entry.**

**It is also important to note that since many areas in this region remain under threat of wildfires residents must be prepared in case the area receives a future evacuation order on short notice and have an evacuation plan in place.**

- Having a transportation plan outside the area, should the area be brought back under evacuation order.

- Keeping essential items readily available for a quick departure, including medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers (i.e. insurance), immediate care needs for dependants and, if you choose, keepsakes (photographs, etc).
- Ensuring that any dependents are prepared for departure.
- Ensuring that pets and livestock remain in a safe area.
- Ensuring that you have accommodation options for your family, if possible. A Reception Centre will be made available again if required.
- Monitoring reliable news sources for evacuation order information. Further information will be issued as it becomes available.

**Residents returning to the area are strongly encouraged to register for the Cariboo Chilcotin Emergency Notification System to receive a text, call or email regarding Evacuation Alerts and Orders.**

**Evacuation resilience centre for Williams Lake Opens Friday.**

- This centre will offer essential services when residents are allowed back home.
- The resiliency centre will be set up at the Boitanio Mall (850 Oliver Street) and will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily until need subsides.
- Evacuees returning to Williams Lake will be able to access services for business needs and social needs.

**Business:**

- Service Canada will be set up to assist those who need access to pension cheques those needing to file Employment Insurance claims.
- Service BC will be on hand to help residents replace personal identification as needed.
- The Insurance Bureau of Canada with as many as 12 insurance companies who are able to start claims and “cut cheques on the spot.”
- Utilities companies such as Telus, BC Hydro and Shaw will have booths as well as ICBC for those who may have lost vehicles in the wildfires.

**Social:**

- Reps from the Ministry of Children and Family Development will be on hand to assist those, for example, with foster children in their care, as well as the Ministry of Social Sustainability.
- Local First Nations governments will also be set up at the centre, along with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).
- There will also be counsellors available at the facility to assist those in need, including volunteers and staff.

**The health, safety and wellbeing of British Columbians is this government’s priority, and responsibility. With that, I invite Kevin to provide you with added context by our panelists of other technical experts...**

## **Emergency Social Services – Returning Home After an Evacuation (Re-entry)**

- Residents returning home are advised to bring a minimum of three days of food and essential supplies as their local stores may not yet have adequate stock.
- Consider the unique needs of your family such as medications, pets and items you rely on daily.
- Ensure your vehicle is fully fuelled.
- Emergency Social Services may be able to provide assistance for those who require support in preparing for their return. If you require support in returning home, call 1-800-863-6582.

### **I still have a referral form (voucher) for accommodation. What should I do with it?**

- A referral form (or voucher) is issued to evacuees who need funding for lodging, food and necessary supplies for the duration of their evacuation.
- As your community is now permitted return home, these forms are no longer needed. Remember to check out of the facility where you have been staying.
- For more information about the referral forms for evacuees, please call 1-800-585-9559.

### **The evacuation order has ended and I cannot return home due to health or safety issues. Am I still eligible for Emergency Social Services?**

- People unable to return home, are still eligible to receive Emergency Social Services. If you require an extension on services, contact your local Reception Centre.

### **How long will evacuees be provided aid?**

- ESS Reception Centres will continue to provide aid until it is safe for evacuees to return home.

### **Clean-up Kit**

- The Canadian Red Cross is providing a clean-up kit for residents returning home.
- The Red Cross can be reached at 1-800-863-6582.

### **Local Community**

Your community may choose to put other supports in place to support your return home. Check their website and monitor local media for details.

### **Take Care of Yourself & Your Family**

Fear, stress and anxiety are natural reactions to a traumatic event. Eventually, these feelings will diminish and, for most people, completely subside. To help yourself and your loved ones:

- Accept and offer help and comfort; seek counselling if necessary
- Focus on positive memories and the skills you've used to get through other hard times



- Be aware of your child's reactions: reassure them and encourage them to express themselves
- Give yourself and your family permission to grieve and time to heal
- Get physical activity, but rest as needed, eat well, hydrate and keep a manageable schedule

### **Re-Entering Your Home**

Your home and its surroundings may not look like they did before you left. As you arrive, it's important to obey all signage and understand Damage Assessment Placards. Damage Assessment Placards are notices that the local government places on buildings within the damaged area. They tell you whether a structure is suitable for re-entry, if access is restricted or if it is unsafe to enter. Visit BC Housing for more information on placards.

If you can only enter your home once, remove your valuables and take steps to secure your property.

If you're safely able to return for longer:

- Bring supplies like a flashlight, tools, drinking water, gloves, garbage bags and a first aid kit.
- Walk around the perimeter of any structure before entering, noting electrical wiring, any gas smell or debris that could fall, and photographing damage.
- Enter with caution and check that the main power breaker is off.
- Only use generators outdoors; do not connect to a household circuit.
- Note sewage and water damage; your septic system or sump pump may not work without power and water may not be potable (that is, may not be safe to consume).
- Do not use your sewage disposal system unless you know it's capable of handling waste.
- If using propane, gas or heating oil, contact suppliers for inspection and service.

Take pictures, keep track of your expenses and the time you spend cleaning up and make sure you keep your receipts.

For more information on returning home after a wildfire go to

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

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Sunday, July 23, 2017 4:10 PM

**To:** TRAN EMBC NEA PREOC Public Information 3 TRAN:EX; Skwarok, Lindsey GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX

**Cc:** TRAN EMBC NEA PREOC Public Information 2 TRAN:EX

**Subject:** Re: Heads up: Williams Lk evacuees going to 100 Mile

Sounds like it makes more sense for CRD to highlight. Good call in the heads up.

Definitely something for us to raise on 1pm call.

**Jordan Turner**

Communications Manager | EMBC

Government Communications and Public Engagement

**Phone:** (250) 952-5062 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

On Jul 23, 2017, at 3:59 PM, TRAN EMBC NEA PREOC Public Information 3 TRAN:EX

<[preoc5.pio3@gov.bc.ca](mailto:preoc5.pio3@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi JT,

A heads up that the EOC is hearing that some Williams Lake evacuees are showing up in 100 Mile House and a requesting ESS – suppose because it's slightly closer to home but of course, 100 Mile House is just getting established and can't handle additional folks.

Wondering if we can put something out via social media to ask evacuees not to do this? Will also contact the CRD and give them the heads up. Maybe we can include a note on it in our 1pm media call tomorrow?

Kirsten

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**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 12:07 PM

**To:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Fwd: RUSH REVIEW: WL Holding Messaging

**Jordan Turner**

Communications Manager | EMBC

Government Communications and Public Engagement

**Phone:** (250) 952-5062 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX" <[Vivian.Thomas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Vivian.Thomas@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** July 25, 2017 at 12:05:27 PM PDT  
**To:** "Turner, Robert TRAN:EX" <[Robert.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Robert.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>, "Maloughney, Mary Sue FLNR:EX" <[MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** "Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX" <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>, "Skrepnek, Kevin FLNR:EX" <[Kevin.Skrepnek@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kevin.Skrepnek@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RUSH REVIEW: WL Holding Messaging

For review, in case this comes up on 1:00 p.m. media call:

**When will the evacuation order for Williams Lake be lifted?**

- The wildfires around Williams Lake are large, and continue to show aggressive behaviour.
- None of the fires are yet fully contained and still pose significant threats to public safety.
- Unfortunately, while we are making progress, we are still very much at the whim of the weather, which in the short-term continues to look challenging.
- We appreciate the strain that evacuees are under, but public safety is the first priority.
- We are in constant communication with the city and regional district and monitoring conditions closely.

**Vivian Thomas**

Communications Director  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development  
Tel: 250 356-2475 cell: 250 213-2972  
[Vivian.Thomas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Vivian.Thomas@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 7:58 PM  
**To:** Duffy, Chris D TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX; Mohrmann, Ralph TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft IB

Thanks for the edits, guys.

Numbers will still need to be reviewed in the A.M.

Take two is attached, Jules

**From:** Duffy, Chris D TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 7:22 PM  
**To:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX; Mohrmann, Ralph TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft IB

2<sup>nd</sup> look

...EMBC is issuing an Evacuation order – needs legal check...

LG with Provincial support ...

...recognizing the challenges and hardships

ESS and CRC have provided supports such as (integrate with para 4)  
doing everything to alleviate impact on people

...check numbers ...

“includes 1182 firefighters...1973 contract personnel (not 1973 Contractors)

**From:** Duffy, Chris D TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 19:06  
**To:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft IB

First blush:

Williams Lake and surrounding area ...per their evacuation order

...why is the province doing this ...hit the nail on the head

The Minister or ...The Lieutenant Gov. in council

Ralph is having a look now too

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 18:35  
**To:** Duffy, Chris D TRAN:EX  
**Cc:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Draft IB  
**Importance:** High

Chris –

Please review asap for accuracy. Language in the second paragraph is taken from the EPA. Highlights will need updates in the morning.

Thanks,

JT

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 10:12 AM  
**To:** Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Giles, Alison GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: BC Safety Authority press release - returning home after wildfires

Thanks!

**From:** Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:44 AM  
**To:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Giles, Alison GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** BC Safety Authority press release - returning home after wildfires

Attached as discussed Jordan.

Thanks,

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Suntanu Dalal  
Media Relations  
Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources  
250-952-0628

**From:** Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:42 AM  
**To:** Giles, Alison GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Press release - returning home after wildfires

OK. I'll resend with your email (below) to Jordan now to make sure he has it and the context.

**From:** Giles, Alison GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:40 AM  
**To:** Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Press release - returning home after wildfires

Sorry - was just getting the tour of the PREOC. I did forward this and it was awaiting approval at PECC - not sure what's happened since. The PECC suggested adding in some additional useful info.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 26, 2017, at 9:30 AM, Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX <[Suntanu.Dalal@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Suntanu.Dalal@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Sorry. Yes, did you send to Jordan and Julianne?

I'll mention this on the call momentarily.

**From:** Giles, Alison GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 9:57 AM  
**To:** Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Press release - returning home after wildfires

Yep - sounds good. They are also distributing as well as Posting to their website.

I'll send to Jordan/Julianne too (that's the right approach?).

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 25, 2017, at 9:50 AM, Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX <[Suntanu.Dalal@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Suntanu.Dalal@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Yes, but I can mention it tomorrow morning.

**From:** Giles, Alison GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 9:50 AM  
**To:** Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Press release - returning home after wildfires

This might be too late to provide an update for your call...

BC safety authority is just posting this info bulletin

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Laura McLeod <[Laura.McLeod@safetyauthority.ca](mailto:Laura.McLeod@safetyauthority.ca)>  
**Date:** July 25, 2017 at 9:14:28 AM PDT  
**To:** "Alison Giles ([Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca))" <[Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** "media@safetyauthority" <[media@safetyauthority.ca](mailto:media@safetyauthority.ca)>  
**Subject:** Press release - returning home after wildfires

Hi Alison,

We are gearing up to send out a release on gas/electrical safety as people start returning to their homes after the fires. I believe Burns Lake and Williams Lake folks are going home imminently so there is a bit of an urgency around it. I am hoping to issue first thing tomorrow.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thanks,

**Laura McLeod** | Communications Business Partner  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA SAFETY AUTHORITY**  
200 - 505 6th Street, New Westminster BC V3L 0E1

tel: 778.396.2091 | cell: 604.355.3589 | toll free: 1.866.566.7233  
[www.safetyauthority.ca](http://www.safetyauthority.ca) | *Safe technical systems. Everywhere.*

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**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 4:43 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Turner, Robert TRAN:EX; McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Comms re possible provincial order

Hi all,

These are the Comms Documents that Jules and I put together last night for the possible order. Chris and Ralph reviewed.

Thanks,

**Jordan Turner**  
Communications Manager | Emergency Management BC  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
**Phone:** (250) 952-5062 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

**From:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 4:39 PM  
**To:** Turner, Robert TRAN:EX; McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Comms re possible provincial order

Can u forward you is jordan

**Matt Gordon**  
Corporate Executive Lead  
Joint Information Centre,  
Emergency Management BC  
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure  
Government of British Columbia  
250.896.4923

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:34 AM  
**To:** Duffy, Chris D TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** DO NOT FORWARD: Joint NR EOC-17-36 Residents can return to WL and area  
**Importance:** High

Hi Chris,

As below, this is not to be shared and not final. However – this is likely the areas they will go with.

I will let you know when I receive a final version.

Thanks,  
JT

DRAFT version of the news release for your information. Please note it is highly confidential.

Emily

EOC Communications  
Cariboo Regional District  
Media: 250-302-9003  
Public Info Line: 1-866-759-4977  
[eoccommunications@cariboord.bc.ca](mailto:eoccommunications@cariboord.bc.ca)

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**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:15 PM  
**To:** TRAN EMBC PECC Public Information 1 TRAN:EX; TRAN EMBC PECC Public Information 3 TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re-entry to Williams Lake

New info bulletins from interior health attached. Please share info with preocs.

Thanks,

**Jordan Turner**  
Communications Manager | EMBC  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
**Phone:** (250) 952-5062 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928



Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX" <[Laura.Heinze@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Laura.Heinze@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** July 27, 2017 at 2:11:45 PM PDT  
**To:** "Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX" <[Kate.Mukasa@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kate.Mukasa@gov.bc.ca)>, "McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX" <[Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Julianne.McCaffrey@gov.bc.ca)>, "Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX" <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** "Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX" <[Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)>, "Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX" <[Carlene.ThistleWalker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Carlene.ThistleWalker@gov.bc.ca)>, "Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX" <[Christine.Maloney@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christine.Maloney@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Re-entry to Williams Lake

FYI – Interior Health will be putting out the attached two IBs on returning to Williams Lake ASAP.

**From:** Hardt, Karl [<mailto:Karl.Hardt@interiorhealth.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:09 PM  
**To:** Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; XT:Lindsay, Darshan GCPE:IN  
**Cc:** XT:Gostelow, Tara IHA:IN; McCurry, Theresa [PHSA]; XT:Lilley, Sally-Anne HLTH:IN; Pritchard, Lesley EHS:EX; XT:Collins, Eryn FIN:IN; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; XT:Raper, Steve GCPE:IN; XT:Coates, Lesley HLTH:IN  
**Subject:** RE: Re-entry to Williams Lake

IH's bulletins attached. Going out in 10 or so.

Karl Hardt  
Communications Consultant – IH East  
250-354-3030 cell  
250-364-3468 office

**From:** Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX [<mailto:Laura.Heinze@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:42 PM  
**To:** Lindsay, Darshan; Hardt, Karl  
**Cc:** Gostelow, Tara; McCurry, Theresa [PHSA]; XT:Lilley, Sally-Anne HLTH:IN; Pritchard, Lesley EHS:EX; Collins, Eryn [NHA]; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; Raper, Steve [NHA]; Coates, Lesley  
**Subject:** RE: Re-entry to Williams Lake

Thanks all!

**From:** Lindsay, Darshan [<mailto:Darshan.Lindsay@interiorhealth.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:39 PM  
**To:** Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; XT:HLTH Hardt, Karl HLTH:IN  
**Cc:** XT:Gostelow, Tara IHA:IN; McCurry, Theresa [PHSA]; XT:Lilley, Sally-Anne HLTH:IN; Pritchard, Lesley EHS:EX; XT:Collins, Eryn FIN:IN; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; XT:Raper, Steve GCPE:IN; XT:Coates, Lesley HLTH:IN  
**Subject:** RE: Re-entry to Williams Lake

Hi there,

We are working on revising our bulletin for WL, re: health services, and also adding a cautionary note related to air quality.

Karl will send once we have a final copy signed off on this end. Plan would be to issue that bulletin, in conjunction with our standard information around food/water safety for returning evacuees.

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**DARSHAN LINDSAY**

Director, Media Relations

INTERIOR HEALTH

office: 250-314-2100 ext 3752

cell: 250 318-4408

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**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Media Scan - Williams Lake Evacuation Order Stories

Hi Matt,

As below – Newsrooms have agreed update stories where headlines/leads are misleading about evacuation status in Williams Lake.

Thanks,

**Jordan Turner**

Communications Manager | Emergency Management BC

Government Communications and Public Engagement

**Phone:** (250) 952-5062 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

**From:** Ralph, Kerri GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:02 PM  
**To:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Media Scan - Williams Lake Evacuation Order Stories

The outlets below have agreed to update their headlines and leads more accurately.

Global – Spoke to newsroom, will update asap.

Van Sun – online story seemed fine, they said thousands of people were returning home.

CBC - Spoke to newsroom, will update asap.

CTV news - Spoke to newsroom, will update asap.

Williams Lake Tribune - Spoke to newsroom, will update asap.

CHNL – Shane Woodford will update his online stories and tweets.

CFJC Today – They will update the online story and make sure that's accurate for evening news also.

PG Citizen – Mark will update accordingly.

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# NEWS RELEASE

July 27, 2017  
EOC-17-36  
For Immediate Release

## **Williams Lake and surrounding areas return to evacuation alert**

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July 26, 2017

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General – media avail & teleconference

MEDIA ADVISORY

VICTORIA – Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Hon. Mike Farnworth, will be joined by representatives from the BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC, to provide a special update on a wildfire development. There will be a question and answer session that follows the announcement and technical briefing.

Event Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location:

Emergency Management BC

Block A – Suite 200,

2261 Keating Cross Road

Victoria, BC

Please park in EMBC designated spots

Dial-in information:

In Vancouver: s.15,s.17

From elsewhere in Canada and the U.S., toll-free: s.15,s.17

Passcode: s.15,s.17

Special instructions: Telephone lines will open at 8:30 a.m. Due to the high volume of participants, media are encouraged to dial-in at their earliest convenience as the call will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.

For Information and current stats, please visit: [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)

Contact:

Media Relations

Emergency Management BC

[EMBCmedia@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EMBCmedia@gov.bc.ca)

778 698-7452

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

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For Immediate Release | July 27, 2017

## Info Bulletin – Update on Williams Lake health services

WILLIAMS LAKE – Health services provided by Interior Health (IH) will be restored in phases, now that a wildfire evacuation order has been lifted for the community.

**The Cariboo Memorial Hospital (CMH) emergency department is open for 24/7 urgent patient care.**

**Outpatient lab and X-ray services will resume at CMH on Friday, July 28.**

***Please Note: While the evacuation order has been lifted, an evacuation alert remains in place and air quality within the region continues to fluctuate due to wildfire activity. Poor air quality can be harmful to health, especially for children, older adults, and those with heart and lung conditions.***

### Resumption of other IH services:

Other hospital services (including acute inpatient beds, scheduled surgeries, oncology, and hospital-based clinics) **will remain closed at this time**. Individuals requiring ongoing hospital-based care may be transferred to alternate facilities. Maternity patients may still need to be redirected or transferred to alternate facilities for their deliveries until the maternity unit re-opens.

Wherever possible, Interior Health staff has remained in contact with home support, home health and Mental Health Substance Use (MHSU) clients from the Williams Lake area. IH will support access to local services as clients return to the community. While full services resume locally, clients should take note of the following:

- For urgent needs, MHSU clients should call 250-305-8496 to speak to a MHSU nurse or visit the emergency department. Additional MHSU staff will be available to support those returning to the community.
- Home support and home health clients who have urgent needs should call 250-305-4071 or visit the emergency department.

IH encourages individuals to contact their family physician's office directly for information on hours of operation during this re-entry phase.

IH continues planning for the staged return of other regular services at CMH, and the return of residents to IH's residential care facility Deni House and residents and assisted living clients to IH's contracted partner site, Williams Lake Seniors Village. Decisions regarding these vulnerable individuals as well as services for oncology (chemotherapy) and renal patients will be based on the lifting of any remaining alerts, local air quality, and wildfire activity in the region.

CMH was closed on July 15 due to an evacuation order related to local wildfire activity. IH had evacuated acute care patients from CMH, residents from Deni House, and residents and assisted living clients from Williams Lake Seniors Village the previous week as a precautionary measure.

IH will continue to update residents on the status of facilities and health services in Williams Lake. Please visit our [Major Events](#) page on the IH website for updates and further information related to the current wildfire situation.

Interior Health appreciates the public's understanding and patience as we work to restore local health services during this challenging time.

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For Immediate Release | July 27, 2017

## Food and water safety information for evacuees returning after a fire

WILLIAMS LAKE - Now that officials have determined it's safe for residents of Williams Lake to return to their homes, there are important tips they should be aware of in regards to health and safety.

Power outages and fire retardants may have affected the quality of your water and the safety of your food. The impact on you and your family will vary according to your situation but all evacuees are advised to take steps to ensure your food and water is safe. Photographs may be useful to document damage for insurance purposes – take photos prior to moving anything or throwing anything damaged away.

### Drinking water quality

#### For residents who are on a community water system:

- As a precautionary measure, the City of Williams Lake is advising residents to flush their taps by running them for 3-5 minutes before using tap water.
- Questions about the quality of drinking water should be directed to the local water supplier (e.g. municipality, utility provider, etc.). These suppliers are best able to assess how their systems have been affected and whether there is any impact on the quality of drinking water.
- If you cannot reach your water supplier and are unsure if your water has been impacted, it is recommended that you use an alternate source (bottled water).
- Community water systems where fire retardant was used in their watershed area will have increased monitoring for changes in water quality. Public notifications will be issued if there is some level of risk or uncertainty associated with drinking water use.

#### For residents on smaller systems or individual wells that suspect that their water supply has been affected by the fire:

- An alternative source of drinking water should be used until the water source can be assessed or tested.
- You may need to evaluate the quality of tap water and find alternate source, such as bottled water until your water supply has been confirmed to be safe.
- Private surface and ground water sources affected by fire retardant application should be tested to ensure compliance with the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. Sample bottles can be provided by water testing laboratories. For information on having your private water source tested, please refer to the list of Provincial Health Officer Approved Drinking Water Testing Laboratories:  
<http://lmlabs.phsa.ca/Documents/PHO%20Approved%20Laboratory%20List.pdf>  
or check your telephone directory's yellow pages under Laboratories – Analytical.

### Food Safety

If the power has been out in your home or if you have been evacuated for a prolonged period (more than 5 days), the food in your fridge or freezer may no longer be safe to eat. Also, food can be damaged by heat, smoke, ash, soot, water and possible chemical residues. The following tips will help you determine if food has been affected.

The main concerns are power outages that affect temperature control of food. You can monitor temperatures using thermometers:

- Refrigerated foods must be under 4 degrees Celsius and frozen food must be at -18 degrees Celsius or less.
- A full chest freezer will keep food frozen for up to 2 days
- A half-full chest freezer will keep food frozen for up to 1 day
- A cooler or fridge will keep food cold for 4 hours.

If you don't have a thermometer or if you don't know how long your fridge or freezer was without power, check the products in the fridge for spoilage and souring. Look for:

- Milk and other dairy products that have spoiled/become sour. Spoiled dairy products are good indicator that the fridge has been off and all food should be discarded.
- Ice cream that has thawed and refrozen is a good indicator that the freezer has been off.
- Fish product that smells bad upon thawing is also a sign that food in your freezer has thawed and refrozen.
- Frozen foods that have thawed must be discarded as they may no longer be safe to eat. Once thawed, food should not be refrozen.
- Food in the freezer that has (or may have) reached 4 degrees Celsius or warmer should be discarded and must not be refrozen.
- Clean and disinfect your fridge or freezer once you have discarded the spoiled food.

***\*Remember, if in doubt - throw it out. Do not take any chances with the safety of your food.***

Clean and disinfect any intact cans of food before opening to make sure the contents are not contaminated.

If there has been an extended power outage, you may wish to contact your insurance provider to discuss what losses are covered. Make a list of items discarded and photograph those items (if possible) for insurance purposes.

Additionally, if you are concerned about the safety of your refrigerator, cooler or freezer, you may need to replace it. If you choose to replace your appliance, photograph its outside and inside for use in speaking with your insurance provider. Individuals should also contact their local government or landfill regarding proper fridge disposal.

## Septic systems

During fires, some components of septic systems may be damaged. If your property was directly impacted by fire your septic system should be assessed by a Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP). To find an ROWP in your area: <http://owrp.asttbc.org/c/finder.php>.

## Pools and hot tubs

Power outages will also cause the circulation and treatment systems of pools and hot tubs to stop working. Private pool owners should ensure adequate disinfection (chlorine levels) and circulation prior to using the pool. Commercial pools may be closed temporarily as operators rebalance their chemicals.

[www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca)

For more information on health and safety considerations and tips for cleanup view our document [After a Fire – Returning Home](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/EmergencyPreparedness/Documents/After%20Fire%20-%20Returning%20Home.pdf) on the Interior Health [Emergency Preparedness](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/EmergencyPreparedness/Documents/After%20Fire%20-%20Returning%20Home.pdf) webpage.

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/EmergencyPreparedness/Documents/After%20Fire%20-%20Returning%20Home.pdf>

To contact an environmental health officer for questions regarding food and water safety please call 1-855-744-6328 option 1.

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## Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX

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**From:** Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:19 PM  
**To:** Broznitsky, Natasha FLNR:EX; Maloughney, Mary Sue FLNR:EX; Meier, Ian R FLNR:EX; Maley, Madeline L FLNR:EX; Skrepnek, Kevin FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Williams Lake and surrounding areas return to evacuation alert  
**Attachments:** Joint\_NR\_EOC\_17-36\_Residents\_can\_return\_to\_WL\_and\_area.pdf

City's final news release.

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**From:** TRAN EMBC PECC Liaison 1 TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:18 PM  
**To:** TRAN EMBC PECC Liaison 1 TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** Williams Lake and surrounding areas return to evacuation alert

July 27, 2017  
EOC-17-36  
For Immediate Release

## Williams Lake and surrounding areas return to evacuation alert

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**Wildfire media briefing, July 27, 1:00 p.m. Pre-brief 12:55 p.m.** s.15,s.17  
s.15,s.17 **(Speakers only) media** s.15,s.17

Good afternoon, I'm Kevin Skrepnek, Fire Information Officer with the BC Wildfire Service, based in Kamloops. I'm going to ask Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General lead off, then I'll give a brief update on the wildfires, followed by Robert Turner, Emergency Management BC, Annie Linteau with the RCMP. We also have officials from the Ministry of Transportation and Canadian Forces on the call to answer other questions.

- Today we have 150 wildfires burning, which includes 14 new fires yesterday.
- To date, there have been 792 fires, burning 379,873 hectares.
- BC Wildfire Service costs to date are estimated at \$145.2 million.
- Firefighting efforts remain focused on public safety and keeping highways that serve as evacuation routes open.
- There are 4,035 firefighters and other personnel currently fighting the fires. This includes:
  - 754 from out-of-province
  - 1,502 contractors
- There are 204 aircraft supporting ground crews to fight the British Columbia fires.

There continues to be the potential for lightning across a wide area today, and again tomorrow and moderate to strong winds across the central and southern interior are expected to continue for several days.

And across the south, we're expecting to see hot, dry conditions.

On most of the new wildfires, initial attack crews have been able to strike down.

With the change of several evacuation orders to evacuation alerts, residents of Williams Lake may consider returning home.

Before deciding to return, the BC Wildfire Service encourages residents to consider that there are still multiple large, uncontained fires in the area that will grow, given the right wind conditions and fire growth could be dramatic.

Residents are reminded that they are still under an Evacuation Alert and must be ready to leave within half an hour.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely. Public safety remains the top priority.



With regard to other fires:

**Elephant Hill – 61,500 hectares (30% contained)**

A burn-off of 5,000 hectares conducted yesterday afternoon was successful and another one is being planned.

**Monte Lake – 150 hectares**

This fire serves as a reminder of the continuing hot, dry conditions across the southern half of the province, and just how quickly wildfires can grow.

Remain vigilant. Be FireSmart and have your emergency preparedness kit ready to go.

**Thank you.**

If you have any follow-up questions, please call media relations at **778-698-7452**.

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**RETARDANT**

- Retardant is an effective means of fighting wildfires, with British Columbia's average summertime temperatures reach 30+ and the relative humidity usually staying at a low 25 percent, water often evaporates too quickly to be effective in fighting wildfires. BC Wildfire Service utilizes fire retardant as an effective tool for fire suppression. They are not used to put out fires, but rather to cool them and slow their progress. This supports the efforts of ground crews in containing the fire.
  - **Nearly 90% of the retardant solution is water.** The main ingredient in the retardant we use is ammonium polyphosphate fertilizer, which functions as the active fire-retarding component. In addition, retardants contain relatively small quantities (five to 15 per cent) of performance additives, and iron oxide (rust) is added to give a red colour to the solution so that air and ground personnel can see where the retardant has been dropped. These liquid concentrates are mixed with water at a ratio of 5.5 parts water to one part concentrate to form dilute solutions.
  - The actual retardant components present in the solution are consumed by plant life and provide nutrients to the plants.
  - If retardant lands on houses, cars, etc., the manufacturer recommends that it be removed as soon as possible.
-

If the retardant is still wet, it can easily be washed off with water. If the retardant is dry, removal may require some scrubbing with water or power washing and a mild detergent.

- More information about the fire retardant that the BC Wildfire Service uses can be obtained from the manufacturer, ICL: <http://www.icl-group.com/>

### Are we at a record in terms of hectares burnt?

In 1961, 483,097 hectares were burnt, and in 1958, 855,968 hectares.

### Wildfire violation tickets:

- Conservation Officers and Natural Resource Officers do patrols and issue tickets. However, there is often a lag time before tickets are entered into the system. I don't have that information handy. Pls follow up with media relations after this call at 778-698-7452.

### Comparative stats:

Year	Total Fires	Total Hectares	Total Cost (millions)	Average Hectares per Fire	Person-caused	Person-caused (%)	Lightning-caused	Lightning-caused (%)
2016**	1,050	100,366	\$129.0	95.6	564	(53.7%)	486	(46.3%)
2015	1,858	280,605	\$277.0	204.9	617	(33.2%)	1,237	(66.6%)
2014	1,481	369,168	\$297.9	249.3	664	(44.8%)	817	(55.2%)
2013	1,861	18,298	\$122.2	9.8	564	(30.3%)	1,297	(69.7%)
2012	1,649	102,122	\$133.6	61.9	708	(42.9%)	941	(57.1%)
2011	653	12,604	\$53.5	19.3	444	(68%)	209	(32%)
2010	1,672	337,149	\$212.2	201.6	680	(40.7%)	992	(59.3%)
2009	3,064	247,419	\$382.1	80.8	881	(28.8%)	2,183	(71.2%)
2008	2,023	13,240	\$82.1	6.5	848	(41.9%)	1,175	(58.1%)
2007	1,606	29,440	\$98.8	18.3	687	(42.8%)	919	(57.2%)
2006	2,570	139,265	\$159.0	54.2	1,034	(40.2%)	1,536	(59.8%)
Average*	1,844	154,944	\$182	85	713	(38.7%)	1131	(61.3%)