Emergency Management BC Communications Sit Report Daily Summary Wildfires 2021

Date: July 21, 2021

*Please note, given the dynamic nature of wildfire activity, the following information is subject to change after this report is distributed.

Evacuation Orders, Alerts

For updated information go to: https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/wildfires-2021/

Evacuation Orders and/or Alerts have been issued in the following areas:

- Ashcroft Indian Band (Facebook page)
- Bulkley-Nechako Regional District
- · Cariboo Regional District
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District
- Cook's Ferry Indian Band (Facebook page) (Evacuation Alert)
- District of 100 Mile House
- Osoyoos Indian Band (Evacuation Order; Evacuation Alert)
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
- Regional District of North Okanagan
- Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
- Skeetchestn Indian Band (Facebook page) (Evacuation Order)
- Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
- Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality
- Takla Nation (Facebook page) (Evacuation Alert)
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- Tsay Keh Dene First Nation (Evacuation Order)
- Village of Ashcroft
- Village of Cache Creek (Facebook)
- Village of Lytton
- Yekooche First Nation

Visit EmergencyMapBC to view the locations of current wildfire activity, evacuation orders and alerts.

BC Wildfire Daily Summary

Since April 1, 2021, the BC Wildfire Service has responded to 1,165 wildfires, resulting in nearly 333,548 hectares of area burned. About 5 per cent of the 2945 wildfires that are currently burning are attributed to human activity, and 68 per cent have been sparked by natural causes. The remaining 27 per cent have yet to be determined. There are currently 39 of which are Wildfires of Note, 13 of which are in the Kamloops Fire Centre region.

Weather Forecast

Scattered showers are expected in central and northern B.C. today. Isolated thundershowers forecast in the east with less chance in the west. Gusty winds in the west expected to spread eastward during the day with stronger gusts near convective cells. Temperatures are cooler but low relative humidity values persist in the Southern Interior. Little to no precipitation forecast for the south. Tomorrow, some residual showers in the morning along the Rockies. Gusty winds in the north, building in the southwest during the afternoon. Thursday is forecast to be the coolest in the next few days.

Key Facts

For most current wildfire information go to the BC Wildfire dashboard at:

https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/index.html#/f0ac328d88c74d07aa2ee385abe2a41b

For information on wildfires of note: http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp

All-Agency Coordination Call – 11:30 a.m.

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre - Jordan Turner

- Called provincial emerg to be put in place as of midnight last night, declared at 2pm media conference yesterday
- Don't have any immediate plans to put in any kind of extraordinary powers or orders for the wildfire situation but that option is there and may be used if needed
- Most uses mentioned were around supporting evacuees given the increase in fire weather that we're seeing starting yesterday and through today and the coming days
- With the wildfire situation, we're still hovering around 300 active fires and currently have 36 interface fires impacting communities directly through alerts or orders
- As mentioned, we've seen a lot of relief in the north north of Williams Lake area, so lots of rain through there which is great
- Our staff here at EMBC are working with local govs in north Prince George, to source spaces for larger cohorts of evacuees if that's needed
- Everything in the south are all showing extreme fire danger ratings and we're expecting to have that extreme fire rating
- From yesterday there were quite a few new orders including 152 new properties from Octopus Creek fire
- Osoyoos Indian Band evacuation and fire resulted in 229 properties in Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
- 122 properties Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
- New Mara Lake fire got media coverage near highway 97A which was closed
- 50 homes evacuated and around 300 homes in southern half of Sicamous municipality
- With all evacuees, we're sending them to a variety of locations for ESS but those are few and far between so we're pushing our message about communities and people have an evacuee plan going through insurance or staying with friends or family wherever possible
- So the few spaces were getting ready are going to those who have no other option
- Making sure there's enough for people who have nowhere to go
- As far as media goes, minister has been out on bit of a media tour this morning radio and major media
- Premier is out in Kootenays doing some availabilities today and here at EMBC my team is continuing to plan
 for media availability that's tomorrow that will have the usual cast with RCMP, HLTH, BCWS
- Working on confirming a minister guest
- Sending out a daily information bulletin at 6am
- These cover the latest wildfire numbers, the latest firefighter numbers and evacuation alerts and orders by region
- Includes links to the latest information from BCWS and Emerg Info BC
 - o https://news.gov.bc.ca/24951

MIRR

Will we get a copy of that daily Info Bulletin?

- Jordan It goes out through the editors so best way might be to sign up for EMBC through BCGovNews or it'll be posted
- On July 19 the Secwepemc declared a State of Emergency for wildfires
- 16 autonomous communities working on coordinating at EOC
- Covered by multiple media outlets and doesn't prevent each community from declaring their own SOE or issuing evac orders or alerts
- The ministry generally sees this as a positive action that will increase wildfire efforts

PSSG

Continuing to monitor the fire around OCC

Health

Yesterday Interior Health released IB on Wiseman Creek wildfire zone – relocating LTC residents

Environment

- Had media interest in the topic of environmental assessment on Lytton
- Resulted from a facebook post from the Village
- Program said any assessment is through the Unified Command
- Not sure if this is something we should direct to you for response?
- Jordan I've asked some questions about it this morning. Confusion started with ENV having some folks in the area doing some assessments and the thinking being they were the lead on whether danger still exists.
- Jordan That's the role of the local government and I think there was confusion on part of FN on who would be the lead to say that it's now safe or people can enter. That decision would be made locally based on advice of the experts from say, ENV. For media, have to clarify that EMBC, Office of Fire Commissioner, ENV

 – are all working to support the local government bus decisions around it reopening fault to the local government still
- Want us to draft some lines and send them to you?
- Jordan that would be great
- One additional park closure and partial park closure over last 24 hours

FLNRO

Continuing to support premier in Castlegar and MKC's tour and EMBC's comms products

TACS

- Continuing to work with Destination BC on any questions around travel for regions under evac order or alert, or not at all
- Jordan it's not spread across the whole province like 2017 and 2018 I think it's a fine line of the "know before you go" messaging

MOTI

- Keeping track of various closure for DriveBC and Inland ferries, a few are down
- CBC South doing a show on the fires from 1-2 and one regional guys will be on about road alerts in the area

RCMP

- Continuing to manage through the multiple evac alerts and orders
- Of note, we know that weather can create fires but yesterday we had two that were vehicle related
- One caught on fire and spread, and one crashed
- Active investigating in Kelowna for suspicious individual who tried to set a fire
- A couple others we're looking at that might have been accidental

Public Safety Canada

- Finally got the NR out yesterday around 6PST with the approval of the RFA and has gotten a decent amount
 of pick up in media
- Jordan apologies for scooping you on that on the 2pm
- The important thing is the RFA was approved by the time the press conference came around

Fortis

- Monitoring wildfire in Osoyoos and Oliver areas and evac orders and alerts
- Asking customers to be conscious of energy use but not pushing for them to reduce too hard right now

Destination BC

- Dealing queries from consumer that SOE means people can't travel and entire province is on fire
- Working on updated messaging to send to you Jordan

- Asking that people be careful with their language and when people are talking about cancelling, we want them to rebook or go elsewhere in the province
- Asking people to go to local visitors centres
- Using know before you go lines
- Have an update for the emerg info page which I'll send over to you Jordan
- · A lot of worried businesses who are seeing cancellations in areas that are not impacted
- Using #realtime hashtag having timestamp pictures of what's going on in different places
- Yesterday's Instagram post triggered a lot of people to cancel trips and Canadians are calling thinking that we're closed
- Will send messaging that hopefully can be used in tomorrow's update
- Jordan for sure. Maybe not a bad idea to have a Destination BC rep on one of our calls. We can talk about that offline. We've done it in the past to give it a bit of balance
- That would be great, thank you

GCPE HQ

- Just a quick update for those who weren't on the PJH avail a summary of the questions were around COVID
 and crossing the border and centred mostly around tourism and I think he handled it really well
- Some backcountry closure questions that I think we covered

Jordan

- Planning towards a few things tomorrow media availability with health, RCMP, Forests, I'll get an invitation out later today for your speakers
- I understand it'll be Dr. Henderson for HLTH again

Communication Activities:

- Preparing for Mayor call with Minister Osborne/PS Rice
- Prepping Thursday Media Availability
- Monitored MLA line
- Provided remote PIO support to PREOCs
- Provided current key messaging to senior EMBC staff as required.

Key Messages:

We will only be posting updated messaging that is produced each day. Please reach out directly if you need something specific that is not listed here.

- The provincial government has put a state of emergency in place based on expert advice from the BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management B.C.
- The cooperation and collaboration we have seen from local and federal governments has been excellent and everything that can be done is being done at this point.
- Declaring a state of emergency allows us to move quickly should we need to use the tools and powers authorized by the *Emergency Program Act*.
- For example, declaring a state of emergency allows the Province to access evacuation space quickly if it is required in the case of a major evacuation.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. How much of a factor was the political pressure from mayors and the opposition when determining to make the call now?

- The decision to declare a state of emergency is not taken lightly. It was based on the advice of experts in the face of deteriorating weather conditions.
- At this point it is a proactive move, but we want to be prepared as we see conditions worsen on the ground and in the weather forecast.
- We want to be prepared to mobilize resources as quick as possible if they are needed.

2. If there is no change to the amount of resources because of the state of emergency, then why call one?

- We have seen excellent cooperation from local and federal governments, and we expect that to continue.
- The Canadian Forces are here helping. Firefighters from Manitoba, New Brunswick and as far away a Mexico have joined the fight. Local governments and First Nations have been collaborating and cooperating.
- Everything that can be done is being done.
- We know that conditions on the ground can change quickly. A state of emergency allows us to move quickly if
 the provincial government needs to use the authority provided in the legislation to get the resources we need
 when they are needed.
- For example, the act allows the province to quickly secure spaces for evacuees in the case of a mass evacuation.

3. What is the difference between the conditions last week and this week that prompted the declaration of a state of emergency?

- We can all take comfort in the knowledge of the professionals who do this work season after season. Their expert knowledge guides our decisions.
- This week we saw changes in the weather patterns and challenges on the ground that lead to the declaration of a state of emergency.

4. What do emergency powers do?

- Emergency powers allow the Province to:
 - o acquire or use any land or personal property considered necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster
 - authorize or require any person to render assistance of a type that the person is qualified to provide or that otherwise is or may be required to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster
 - o control or prohibit travel to or from any area of British Columbia
 - provide for the restoration of essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies and provide, maintain and coordinate emergency medical, welfare and other essential services in any part of British Columbia
 - o cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock, animals and personal property from any area of British Columbia that is or may be affected by an emergency or a disaster and make

arrangements for the adequate care and protection of those persons, livestock, animals and personal property

- authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person in the course of implementing an emergency plan or program or if otherwise considered by the minister to be necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster
- cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures, or crops if the demolition or removal is considered by the minister to be necessary or appropriate in order to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster
- construct works considered by the minister to be necessary or appropriate to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster

procure, fix prices for or ration food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies or other essential supplies and the use of any property, services, resources or equipment within any part of British Columbia for the duration of the state of emergency.

Emergency Info BC Messaging:

Have a good evening all!



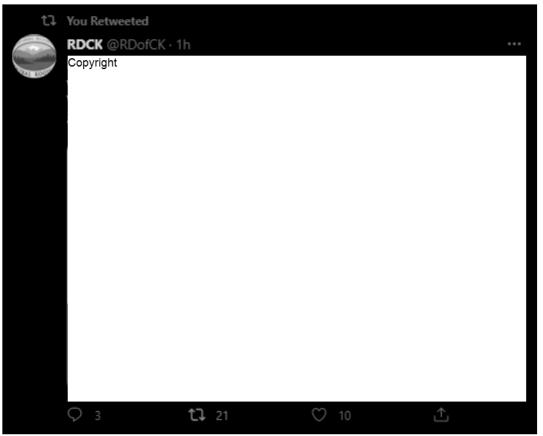










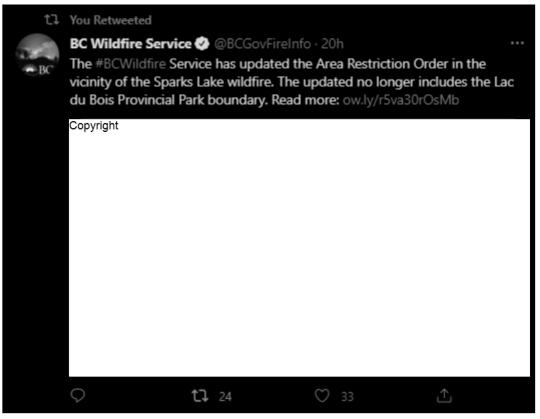










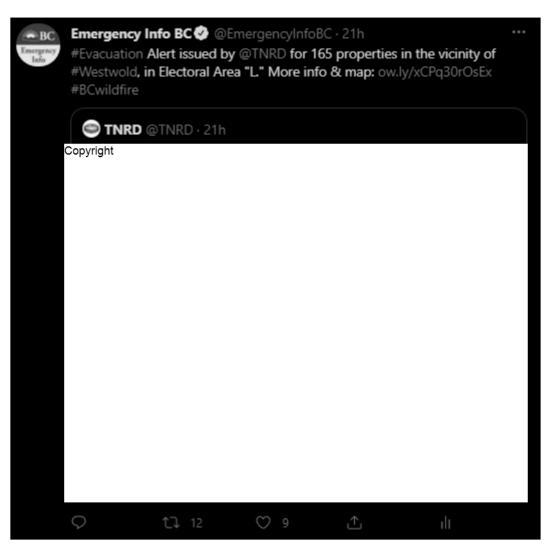










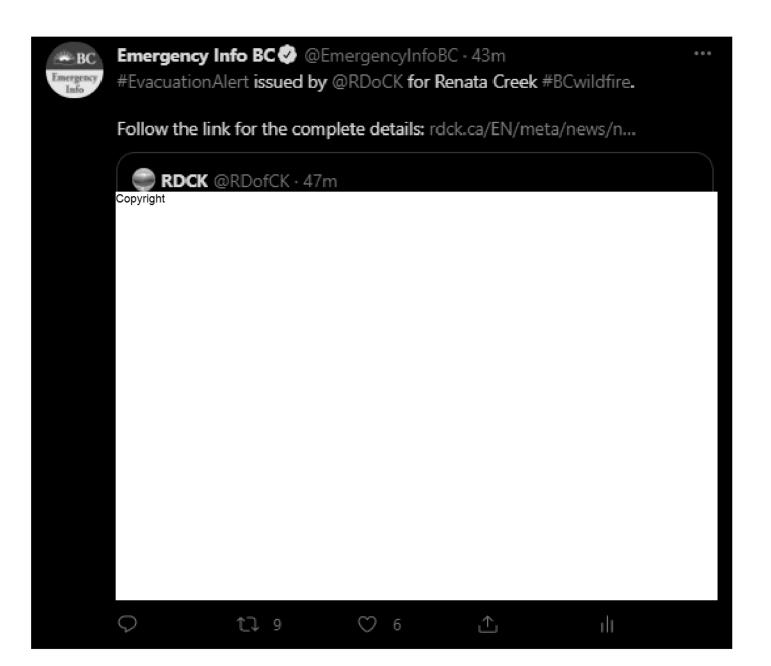


















BC Wildfire Service @ @BCGovFireInfo · 20m

Though the intention behind these actions is positive, it runs the risk of interfering with our personnel.

- * to support firefighting efforts in B.C., please contact donations@gov.bc.ca
- * to financially assist those impacted by wildfires, visit:



Province, Canada to match Red Cross donations to help people affecte...

To help people affected by the wildfires burning around B.C., the Province will match all donations to the Canadian Red Cross, up to \$20... @ news.gov.bc.ca





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INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release 2021FLNRO0047-001423 July 22, 2021 Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

B.C. wildfires: quick statistics

VICTORIA – The wildfire situation is continually evolving, and the information below is current as of 7 p.m. (Pacific time) on Wednesday, July 21, 2021.

Fires:

- Wildfires currently burning in B.C.: 277
- Since April 1, 2021:
 - 1,168 wildfires
 - 338,897 hectares burnt
- · Active fires by fire centre:

Cariboo: 44
Coastal: eight
Kamloops: 102
Northwest: four
Prince George: 58
Southeast: 61

Crews and equipment:

- Firefighters and other personnel currently fighting the fires: 3,123 (total, includes out-of-province and aerial support)
- Out-of-province firefighters: 64
- Helicopters and planes supporting ground crews: 178

Evacuations:

- Evacuation Orders: 50 (+6)Evacuation Alerts: 79 (+5)
- Properties:
 - Number of properties on order: 4,351 (+1,273)
 - Number of properties on alert: 17,691 (+1,466)
- Orders and Alerts by Emergency Management BC region:
 - Vancouver Island Central Coast: zero
 - Northwest: three orders and five alerts
 - Northeast: four orders and 16 alerts
 - Central: 34 (-1) orders and 44 (-2) alerts
 - Southeast: nine (+7) orders and 12 (+7) alerts
 - Southwest: zero orders and two alerts

For real-time updates on evacuation alerts and orders, visit:

https://twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC

For the latest wildfire information, visit: www.bcwildfire.ca

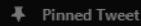
Supports available:

- To help people and communities manage and recover from the impacts of wildfires, the Province has assembled a list of the key resources people may need.
 Go to www.EmergencyInfoBC.ca and click on "recovery and supports."
- To register for Emergency Support Services: https://ess.gov.bc.ca/
 Or call toll-free: 1 800 585-9559
- For information and resources for farms/livestock producers, including the livestock relocation program:
 https://www2.gov/bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market
 - https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/emergency-management
- For information on BC Hydro bill help for British Columbians who are evacuated: https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/evacuee-help.html?
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 <a href="https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/
- For information on how to report a claim related to wildfire damage through ICBC: https://www.icbc.com/claims/report-view/Pages/Report-a-claim-online.aspx Or by phone (toll-free): 1 800 910-4222.
- If you have health concerns due to smoky air, extreme heat and the stress of being evacuated or on alert, dial 811 to contact HealthLink BC.
- For information on programs to help those impacted by seasonal emergencies and disasters:
 - Individual and family recovery programs:
 https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-programs-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs#individual
 - First Nations support: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-programs-nation
 - Business and agriculture recovery programs: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs#business
 - Indirect business
 support: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs#indirect
 - Resources for community recovery managers:
 https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/programs#community
- For information about private home insurance and other private insurance claims related to wildfire: http://www.ibc.ca/qc/disaster/bcwildfire
- For up-to-date information on current wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, call 1 888 3-FOREST (1 888 336-7378)
 Or visit: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status

Contact:

Emergency Management BC Media Relations 250 880-6430

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect





As part of your #BCwildfire emergency planning, consider where you would stay if you had to evacuate. If possible, best option is to arrange to stay with family or friends so commercial accommodations have capacity for evacuees with no other option

Info: news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021P...





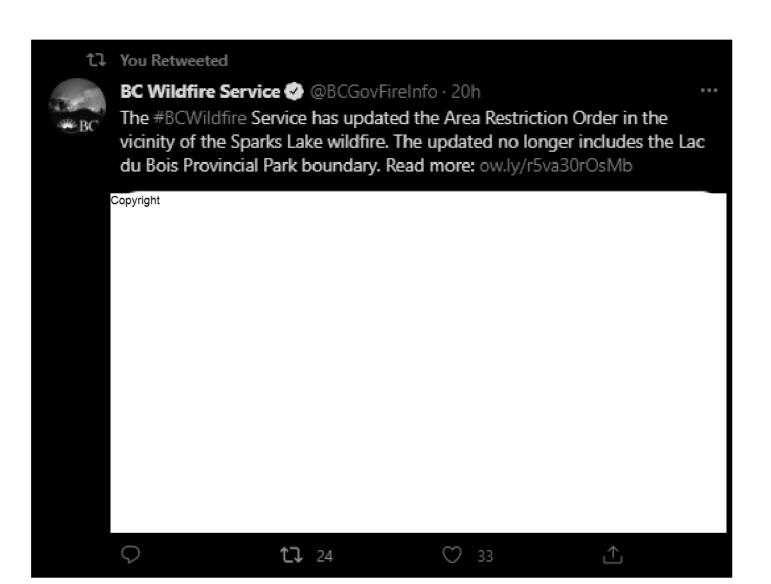








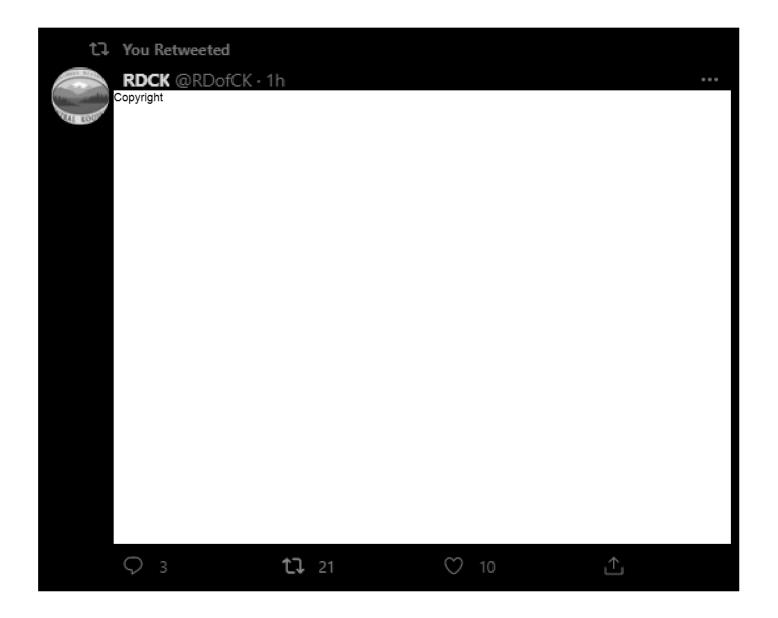
















Communications Situation Report - July 22, 2021

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX < Jordan. Turner@gov.bc.ca>

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Cc: EMBC Executive <EMBCEXEC@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Ralfs, Brendan R

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Sent: July 22, 2021 7:43:58 PM PDT

Attachments: image009.png, image015.png, image013.png, image017.png, image018.png,

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Hi all,

Please find below the Communications Situation Report for July 22. Updates are in RED.

Instead of attaching the 6am IB as mentioned yesterday, I'm just going to paste the info at the top of each report going forward. It is below.

Thanks,

Jordan Turner

Communications Director | EMBC

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre Phone: (236) 478-0210 Cell: (250) 896-1928

Releases:

BCGovNews:

FLNRO: Provincial drought, water-scarcity conditions: https://news.gov.bc.ca/24973

Emergency Management BC Communications Sit Report Daily Summary Wildfires 2021

Date: July 22, 2021

*Please note, given the dynamic nature of wildfire activity, the following information is subject to change after this report is distributed.

Here is the info going out in the 6am IB:

Current as of 7 p.m. (Pacific time) on Wednesday, July 22, 2021.

Fires:

- Wildfires currently burning in B.C.: 272
- Since April 1:
 - o 1,187 wildfires
 - o 360,835 hectares burnt
- Active fires by fire centre:
 - Cariboo: 45
 Coastal: 8
 Kamloops: 98
 Northwest: 4
 Prince George: 53
 Southeast: 64

Crews and equipment:

- Firefighters and other personnel currently fighting the fires: 3,193 (total, includes OOP and aerial support)
- Out-of-province firefighters: 64
- Helicopters and planes supporting ground crews: 198

Evacuations:

- Evacuation Orders: 58 (+8)
- Evacuation Alerts: 78 (-1)
- Properties:
 - Number of properties on Order: 5,084 (+733)
 - Number of properties on Alert: 17,489 (-202)
- Orders and Alerts by Emergency Management BC region:
 - Vancouver Island Central Coast: 0Northwest: 3 Orders 4 (-1) Alerts
 - O Northeast: 4 Orders 16 Alerts
 - Central: 44 (+10) Orders and 48 (+4)
 Southeast: 7 (-2) Order and 8 (-4) Alerts
 - Southwest: 0 Orders and 2 Alerts

Evacuation Orders, Alerts

For updated information go to: https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/wildfires-2021/

Evacuation Orders and/or Alerts have been issued in the following areas:

- Ashcroft Indian Band (Facebook page)
- Bulkley-Nechako Regional District
- Cariboo Regional District
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District
- Cook's Ferry Indian Band (Evacuation Order) (Facebook page)

- District of 100 Mile House
- Osoyoos Indian Band (Evacuation Order Partial Rescind & Evacuation Alert)
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
- Regional District of North Okanagan
- Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
- Shackan Indian Band (Evacuation Order) (Facebook page)
- Skeetchestn Indian Band (<u>Facebook page</u>) (<u>Evacuation Order</u>)
- Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
- Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- Tsay Keh Dene First Nation (Evacuation Order)
- Village of Ashcroft
- Village of Cache Creek (<u>Facebook</u>)
- Village of Lytton
- Yekooche First Nation

Visit EmergencyMapBC to view the locations of current wildfire activity, evacuation orders and alerts.

BC Wildfire Daily Summary

Since April 1, 2021, the BC Wildfire Service has responded to 1,173 wildfires, resulting in nearly 343,339 hectares of area burned. About 5 per cent of the 275 wildfires that are currently burning are attributed to human activity, and 70 per cent have been sparked by natural causes. The remaining 25 per cent have yet to be determined. There are currently 39 of which are Wildfires of Note, 16 of which are in the Kamloops Fire Centre region.

Weather Forecast

Some showers are expected northeast of the Rockies today with a mix of sun, cloud and isolated showers elsewhere in the province. Gusty winds will affect the north with lighter winds in the central and south. Expect increasing winds in the southeast in the afternoon. Temperatures to cool a bit but still quite warm, especially in the south.

Tonight and tomorrow expect continued isolated shower in north and mainly sunny skies in the south. Gusty winds persist across the north and temperatures warm up again.

<u>Key Facts</u>

For most current wildfire information go to the BC Wildfire dashboard at:

https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/index.html#/f0ac328d88c74d07aa2ee385abe2a41b

For information on wildfires of note: http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp

All-Agency Coordination Call – 11:30 a.m.

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre – Jordan Turner

- Continued hot and dry conditions through central and southern interior
- · Some larger evacuations going into the evening, some overnight and leading into this morning
- Saw only about 12 fire starts in last 24 hours, which is a drop from the higher number we've seen over the last month or so
- Total number of active fires has dropped a bit to 275
- Michaud Fire Creek fire led to evac of entire community of Edgewood roughly 350 properties
- Young Lake Fire led to evac for 103 properties for Bonaparte Plateau
- · Tactical evac took place overnight due to Hunakwa Lake Fire affecting Seymour Arm community
- BCWS is working with the community there and further evac order has been issued around Seymour Arm
- Don't yet have the total number of properties
- That fire started yesterday and quickly led to some issues

- For today, as mentioned on previous calls, we are planning an all mayor call with Municipal Affairs –
 including PS Rice and Minister Osborne
- Happening at noon today
- Another media avail planned for 2pm today
- As mentioned, we're trying to do regular Tuesday, Thursday avails
- EMBC, BCWS, RCMP and HLTH
- Dealing with a lot of questions about our Alert Ready system and dealing with those with our ministers office about how to best respond

MIRR

- We also have evac order for Cook's Ferry Indian Band and Indian Band in Spences Bridge area
- First Nations Emerg Services Society has demanded mapping services
- Should help wildlife response and relief
- I believe EMBC is coordinating that offer

Environment

• 44 parks on full closure and 8 on partial closure

Municipal Affairs

• Just on the call with the minister for the all mayors conference call

FLNRO

- IB going out on drought sometime this afternoon. Shooting for 1pm
 - o https://news.gov.bc.ca/24973
- Richard Zussman has asked for an interview on drought so I'll keep you on the loop on that
- Don't want to step on the press conference so will do it before or after

First Nations Health Authority

Have our Dr giving interviews this afternoon on mental health and wellness and wildfires

Canadian Forces

- We're getting ready to push troops into BC
- Have a request for access to our people doing the works for BCWS
- If they want access to people, I can manage that but if they want to see people to do the work, who should I direct those requests to?
- Jordan BCWS manages media requests related to fire line. BCWS can work it out through a command centre
- We've produced some media lines with info about our troops coming in
- Once I get those approved I'll share them with you so we're all on the same page with numbers
- Jordan that would be great for my minister's use as well

RCMP

- Media reporting about the theft of wildfire service equipment
- Haven't received any media calls, not sure if that topic will come up
- Members in filed reinforcing the number to call about spotting wildfires
- RCMP have made calls and gotten fires doused quickly
- Jordan *5555 is good to keep on hand

BC Hydro

• Continue to monitor and do risk reduction – daily patrols, fire hardening, some restoration and making sure employees are safe

Destination BC

- Yesterday we put together a document emergency resources and messaging for tourism partners across the province
- Updated messaging on know before you go, graphics and visitors facing safe travel brochure that can be shared electronically or printed
- Multiple media interviews pushing the know before you go info and stressing that we're under emergency but there are options and people need to plan carefully
- Working with travel media network across Canada to make sure they have similar messaging
- Jordan having out team integrate it into our rolling messaging document and we'll pass along any relevant media requests we get

US Consulate Vancouver

- We are ready to amplify some of the wildfire info on our social media as the border begins to open up
- Would be interested in some of the information coming out of Destination BC
- Jordan maybe it would make sense to connect you with DBC?

Communication Activities:

- Supported Mayor call with Minister Osborne/PS Rice
- Thursday Media Availability
- Monitored MLA line
- Provided current key messaging to senior EMBC staff as required.
- Responded to media requests throughout the day

Key Messages:

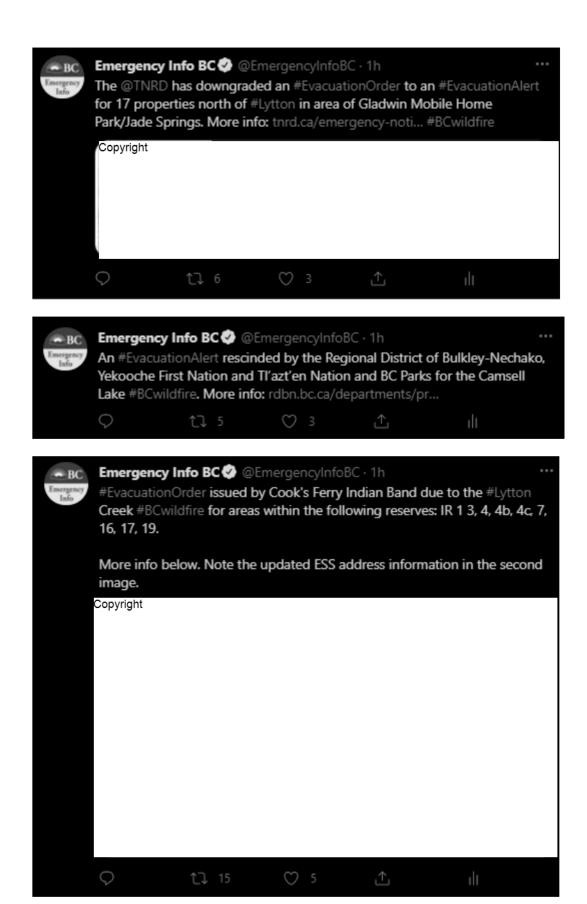
We will only be posting updated messaging that is produced each day. Please reach out directly if you need something specific that is not listed here.

Messaging from Destination BC

- As you may know, areas of British Columbia are currently dealing with wildfires.
- During these emergencies, the tourism industry is an important conduit to official information sources for visitors. Our priority is ensuring that travelers have all the official resources they need to make informed decisions based on the latest, on-the-ground information, and to encourage them to continue to consult these resources for any updates before and during their trips.
- Destination BC's Know Before You Go page is regularly updated and serves as a one-stop shop for visitors looking to access key information resources such as DriveBC, the BC Wildfire Service, Emergency Management BC, and more.
- If the area you were planning to travel to is impacted by wildfires, or under an evacuation alert or order, please connect with a local visitor centre to rebook your trip to another area of the province. British Columbia is a very large and diverse province, and there are many areas that are not directly impacted and are open for business.
- There are plenty of options if your plans need to change. BC's network of community Visitor Centres is a great resource for info on local conditions, and activity and accommodation suggestions, should you wish to modify your plans.
- Accommodation, transportation, and experience provider listings can also be found at ExploreBC.com/Book.
 Visit ExploreBC.com/TravelUpdates for key travel information and resources
- As conditions can change rapidly, it's important to verify information from official sources, both before you leave and during your trip, so you can make informed travel decisions. Check BC Wildfire Service for fire bans and fire safety tips @BCGovFireInfo on Twitter. Report a wildfire by dialing *5555 on a cell or calling 1-800-663-5555 toll-free.
- Tourism businesses and associations can access emergency resources and messaging through Destination BC's corporate website, at https://www.destinationbc.ca/what-wedo/destination-management/emergency-preparedness/

Emergency Info BC Messaging:

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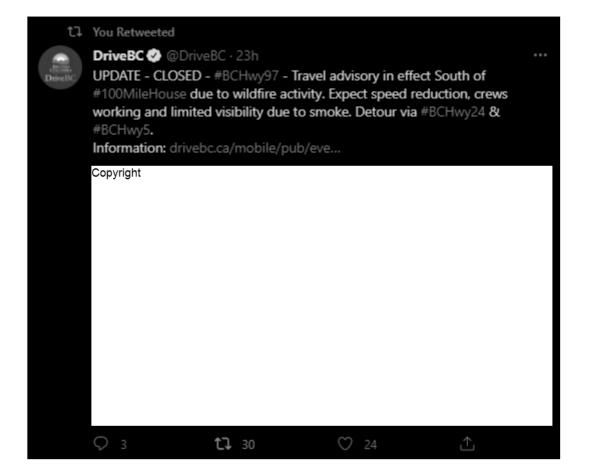










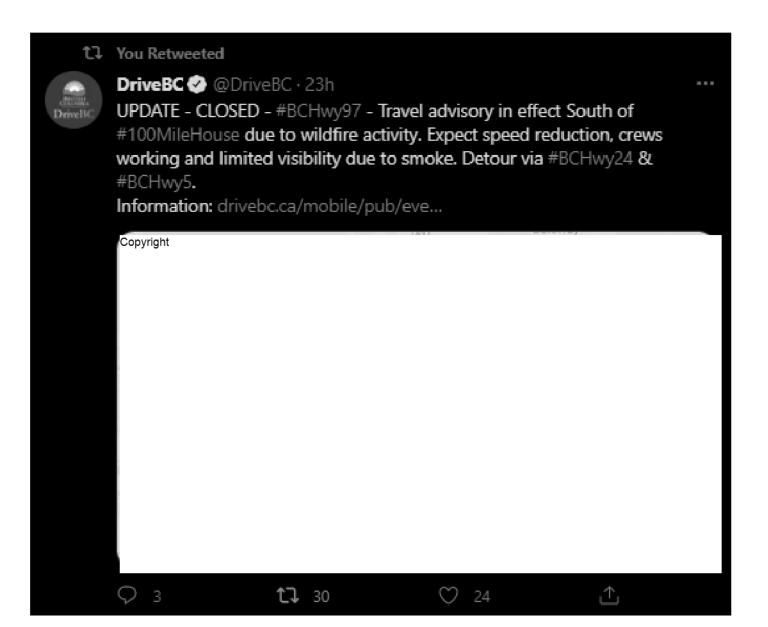






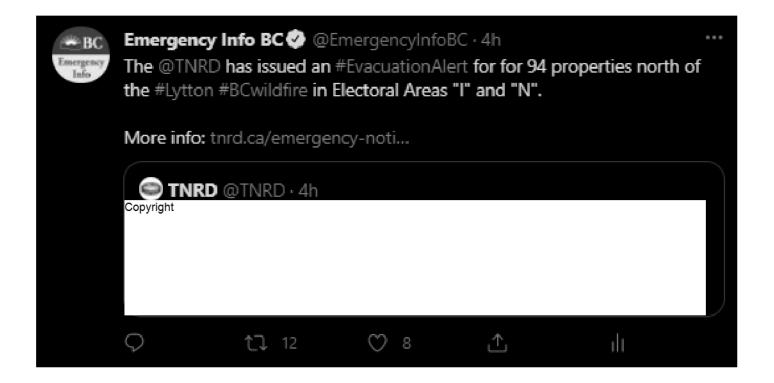


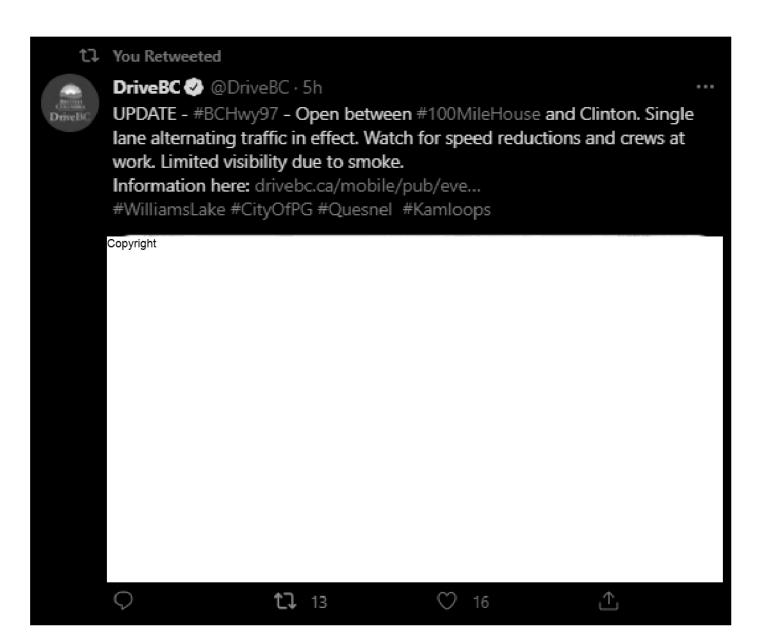






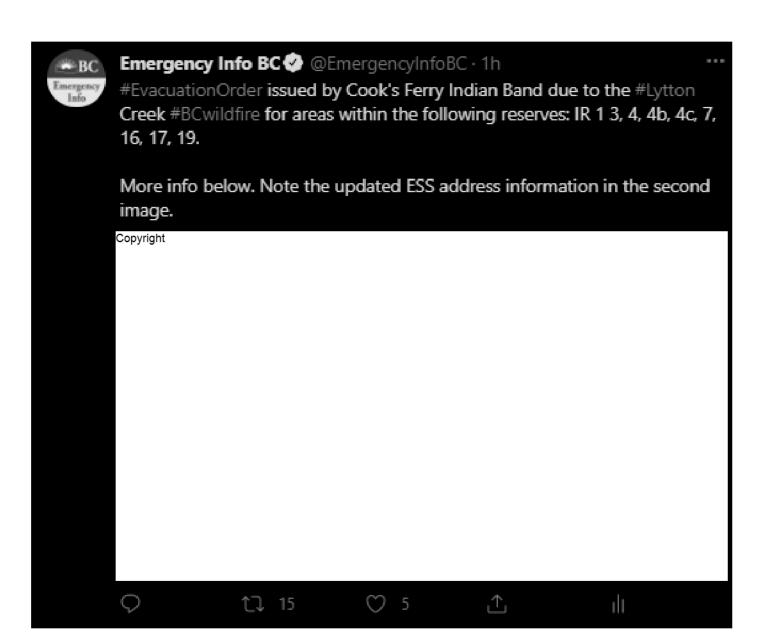
















An #EvacuationAlert rescinded by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, Yekooche First Nation and Tl'azt'en Nation and BC Parks for the Camsell Lake #BCwildfire. More info: rdbn.bc.ca/departments/pr...

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Date Prepared: July 23, 2021

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

TO: Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

ISSUE: Financial Support for Lytton Fire Evacuees and Households Under Evacuation Order Delivered by the Canadian Red Cross

BACKGROUND:

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is proposing to have the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) provide one-time \$1,000 payments to each household impacted by the Lytton fire given its extraordinary impact.

Further, recognizing the possibility for evacuation orders over the remainder of the 2021 wildfire season the Province could consider engaging the CRC to provide payments to households displaced due to any evacuation orders lasting longer than 10 days.

DISCUSSION:

- As of July 20th, there are approximately 300 active wildfires, 34 of which are classified as interface fires largely focussed in the Cariboo and Okanagan regions of the province. Approximately 2,800 properties are on evacuation order and close to 16,000 properties are on evacuation alert.
- A Provincial State of Emergency was declared effective July 21, 2021, based on the
 risks associated with the deteriorating conditions as a result of very dry conditions,
 sustained drought and a combination of higher than normal temperatures, and
 unsettled weather leading to new fire starts from lightning strikes and fire growth due
 to high/gusty winds.
- The Lytton fire and a related evacuation order is estimated to have impacted over 1,000 individuals. The Evacuee Registration Assistance tool indicates there are 488 individuals from the Lytton First Nation and 798 individuals from Lytton who registered for supports.
- The \$1,000 payment per household proposed for Lytton Fire Evacuees is intended as an immediate support while longer term plans are developed in collaboration with impacted communities. The payment will not impact recipient's eligibility for supports provided through the Emergency Support Services program.
- There were initial discussions with Canada about the potential to collaborate on the \$1,000 payments to households impacted by the Lytton fire. Canada has confirmed it does not intended to partner on this initiative.
- The purpose of the proposed \$600 payment is to provide rapid financial assistance to those who have had to evacuate their residence due to the evacuation orders to help alleviate the situation. This funding is not meant to cover all costs (such as gas,

Date Prepared: July 23, 2021

food, lodging) incurred by people who had to evacuate their residence but is meant to help alleviate the impact and is in addition to the support provided through the Emergency Support Services program.

- EMBC notes, unlike the \$600 payments provided during the 2017 fire season, people who have evacuated while <u>not</u> under evacuation order will not be provided with a \$600 payment. This will ensure support is targeted towards those most significantly impacted by evacuation orders (i.e. for 10 days or more).
- The CRC will require recipients to register to receive these proposed payments.
 Recognizing the priority factors of speed and equity, financial assistance will be given at the household level (not individual) to all those who had to evacuate.
- To receive payment the primary registrant will need to both pass the CRC's identity authentication process and be evacuated from their primary place of residence due to an eligible evacuation order.
- Generally, a disaster relief payment that an individual receives from a government, municipality, or public authority for personal losses and expenses is not taxable and is not included in the recipient's income for income tax purposes.

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OPTIONS:

OPTION 1: Recommended

 Approve \$1,000 payments for households impacted by the Lytton Fire related evacuation order in addition to a \$600 payment to any household on evacuation order for longer more than 10 day delivered by the CRC using residual 2018 wildfire grant funding.

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Date Prepared: July 23, 2021

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

FIN

DECISION APPROVED / NOT APPROVED OPTION $_{1}$

DATE:

Mike Farnworth, Minister

Public Safety and Solicitor General

July 23, 2021

Date

PREPARED BY:

Alex Chandler EFO and ADM

Emergency Management BC

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	23/07/2021
ADM/EFO	AC	7-23-2021

Attachment(s)

N/A