



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

### INFORMATION RELEASE

August 3, 2018 11:30 am

Evacuation Order | State of Local Emergency | Chopaka Road

---

#### **Evacuation Order**

Under a State of Local Emergency in RDOS Electoral Area "B", an Evacuation Order has been issued for three properties in the vicinity of Chopaka Bridge due to the Snowy Mountain wildfire.

The Evacuation Order is in effect for the following properties:

1049 CHOPAKA ROAD

1050 CHOPAKA ROAD

1101 CHOPAKA ROAD

\* DISTRICT LOT 1186, LAND DISTRICT SIMILKAMEEN DIVISION OF YALE,  
EXCEPT PLAN B1006 B6433 DD 1315

\* Only the portion of land shown on the attached Evacuation Order map

#### **Lower Similkameen Indian Band Evacuation Order**

On August 2, 2018 the Lower Similkameen Indian Band issued an Evacuation Order for Similkameen I.R. No. 2 West in the vicinity of Susap Creek Road.

#### **State of Local Emergency**

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Emergency Operations Centre in consultation with the Province of British Columbia has declared a State of Local Emergency south of Cawston in Electoral Area "B" as the Snowy Mountain wildfire poses a threat to properties in the RDOS.

#### **What does a Declaration of State of Local Emergency (SOLE) mean?**

Declaring a state of local emergency enables local authorities (Regional Districts, municipalities) in the Province of British Columbia to utilize the emergency powers listed in the *Emergency Program Act*. The emergency powers are used by the local authority to order the evacuation of residents from their homes, prohibit travel and enter private property when an emergency threatens lives, property or the environment within the local authority's jurisdiction.



Serving the citizens of the Okanagan-Similkameen since 1966.

[www.rdos.bc.ca](http://www.rdos.bc.ca)

**WHAT EVACUATED RESIDENTS SHOULD DO:**

- You must leave the area **immediately**
- Close and lock all windows and doors
- Shut off gas and electrical appliances, other than refrigerators and freezers
- Do not lock gates
- Gather your family: take a neighbour or someone who needs help
- Take critical items (medicine, purse, wallet, and Keys) only if they are immediately available. Take pets in pet kennels or on leash.
- Do not use more vehicles than you have to.
- Do not use the telephone unless you need emergency service.

**YOU MUST LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY**

Evacuees are directed to register with Emergency Support Services (ESS) at 250-486-1890. Residents under Evacuation Order can go to the Village of Keremeos office at 702 4<sup>th</sup> Street, to register today.

**See map of evacuation area below**

**Snowy Mountain – Similkameen Update**

BC Wildfire is advising residents in the Similkameen that a spot fire near Beecroft River Road is not posing a threat to homes. Crews in the area are conducting burn-off activities at the base of the hillside near the containment line. Residents may see more smoke and open flame as a result. The burn-off is being supported by bucketing helicopters.

For more information visit the RDOS website [www.rdos.bc.ca](http://www.rdos.bc.ca).

**Issued by Director of RDOS Emergency Operations Centre  
RDOS EOC 250-490-4225**

####

## **Campfire Ban**

A camp fire ban has been declared for the entire Kamloops Fire Centre region including the entire Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. With high temperatures, all backcountry users are asked to be extra vigilant and fire smart.

Information will be updated at [www.rdos.bc.ca](http://www.rdos.bc.ca).

For information on BC Parks visit [www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks)

## **Wildfire Preparedness**

If you live in an area under Evacuation Alert, you should prepare your personal plan.

Embers from wildfires may affect properties and structures within a wide vicinity.

These embers may spark fires, which can spread quickly and without warning.

Remove combustible material and fuel from around your home and gutters.

Prepare a grab-and-go bag with personal items and documents.

Wildfire Prevention: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention>

## **Animal Relocation During an Emergency**

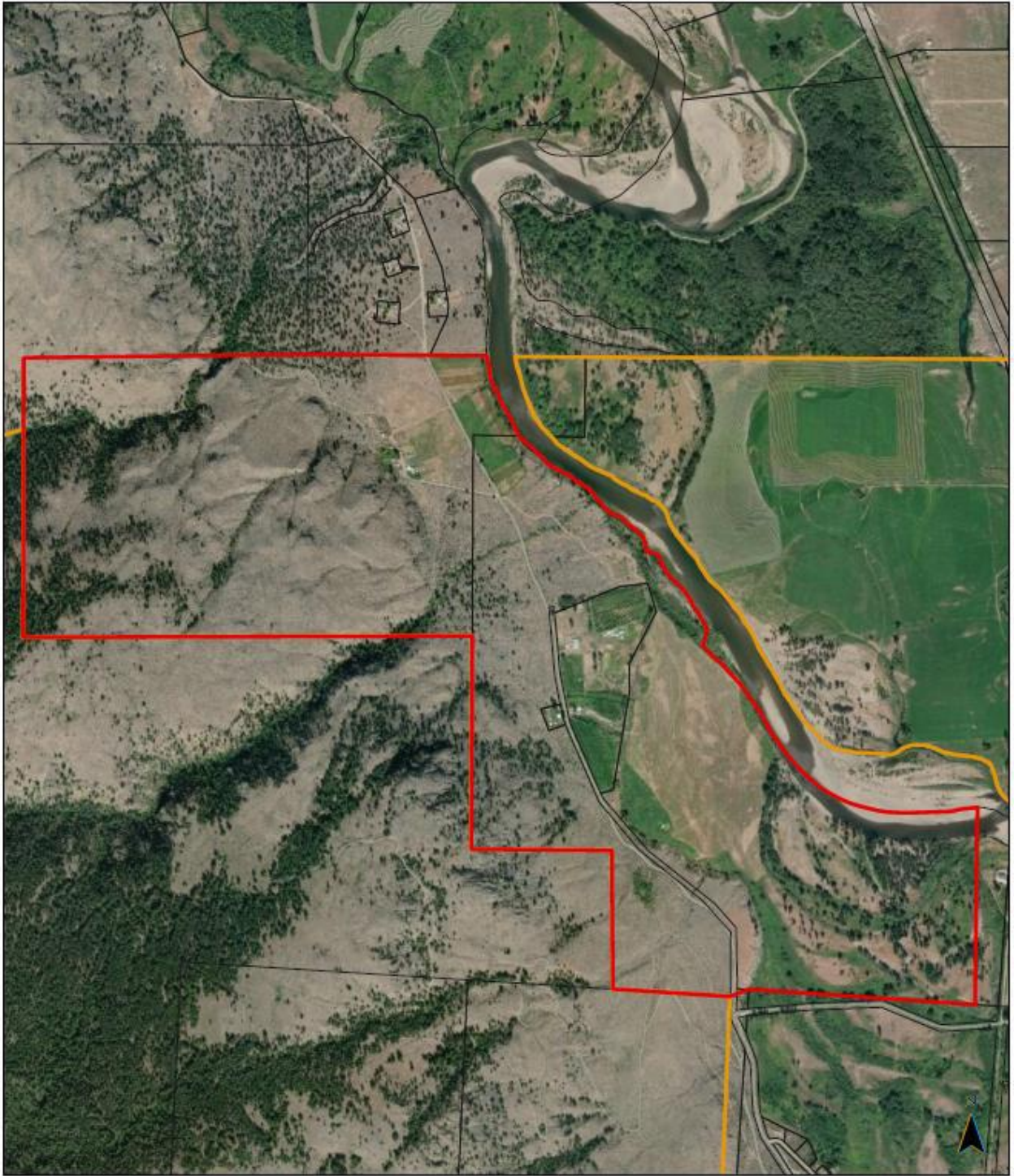
Animal owners should have a plan and make sure animals have food, water, shelter and any veterinary supplies they may need. Make arrangements for your pets and hobby animals in case you have to go to a shelter where they cannot be with you.

Commercial livestock producers involved in farm businesses should make relocation arrangements where possible, and may obtain assistance through the EOC where necessary. Commercial livestock may be relocated under an Evacuation Alert with approval from the EOC. Please contact the EOC to discuss your situation.

Due to the increased possibility of animals becoming lost or disoriented, please ensure you have a way of identifying your animals:

- Pets and hobby animals may have tattoos, licenses and/or computer chips.
- Horses may have brands but many do not. As a precaution, you may want to braid a small tag with your name & contact information into their mane.
- Livestock are likely to have brands, tattoos, and/or RFID tags.
- Taking photographs and having documentation ready to go is prudent.

**ALERT Canada** provides information and assists with animals, including pets and hobby animals in the event of an emergency. The Desert Park Race Track in Osoyoos is allowing stabling for horses and smaller livestock as needed. For information on pets, contact ALERT Canada at 250-809-7152 or visit [www.alertcanada.org](http://www.alertcanada.org).



Evacuation Order - Chopaka Road  
Start Time - August 3 - 1100 am  
Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen

Evacuations

- Alert
- Order
- Rescind

