

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

August 3, 2018 4:30 pm

EOC Update | Regional Overview

Regional Overview

An Evacuation Order has been issued for three properties in the vicinity of Chopaka Bridge due to the Snowy Mountain wildfire. An Evacuation Order was also issued for Cathedral Lakes Lodge.

State of Local Emergency

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Emergency Operations Centre (RDOS EOC) in consultation with the Province of British Columbia, has declared a State of Local Emergency in Electoral Area “B” south of Cawston.

Type of Notification	Date Issued	Location	# of Properties
State of Local Emergency due to Snowy Mountain and Placer Mountain wildfires	Aug 1, 2018	Electoral Areas “B” & “G”	
Advisory Evacuation Alerts due to Snowy Mountain Fire	Aug 1, 2018	Snowy Mountain Range Land	0 (Crown)
	July 31, 2018	Electoral Areas “B” and “G”	481
	July 31, 2018	Village of Keremeos (south of highway 3)	384
	July 30, 2018	Chopaka Rd Cawston, BC	4
Mandatory Evacuation Order due to Placer Mountain Fire	Aug 1, 2018	Cathedral Lakes Lodge (see BC Parks for information on Cathedral Provincial Park)	1
Evacuation Order due to Snowy Mountain Fire	Aug 3, 2018	Chopaka Bridge	3

There are no other Evacuation Orders or Alerts within the RDOS at this time. For information about LSIB Evacuation information please see below.

Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB) Evacuation Order

An Evacuation Order remains in place for several properties in the vicinity of Susap Creek Road and Chopaka Road.

LSIB: <https://www.lsib.net/>

EVACUATION ORDER – WHAT TO 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
- If you need transportation assistance from the area please call: 250-486-1890.

EVACUATION ALERT – WHAT TO DO:

Upon notification of an **ALERT**, you should be prepared for the evacuation order by:

- Locating all family members or co-workers and designate a meeting site (such as a Reception Centre) outside the evacuation area, should an Evacuation Order be issued while separated.
- Gathering essential items such as medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers (i.e. insurance), cell phone charger, immediate care needs for dependents and, if you choose, keepsakes (photographs, etc.). Have these items readily available for quick departure.
- Preparing to move any disabled persons and/or children.
- Preparing to move pets and livestock to a safe area.
- Arranging to transport your household members or co-workers in the event of an Evacuation Order.
- Arranging accommodation for your family if possible.
- In the event of an Evacuation Order, Reception Centres will be opened if required.
- Monitoring news sources for information on Evacuation Orders and locations of Reception Centres.

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 were conducting burn-off activities at the base of the hillside near the containment line. Residents may have seen more smoke and open flame as a result. The burn-off was being supported by bucketing helicopters.

Campfire Ban

A campfire ban has been declared for the entire Kamloops Fire Centre region including the entire RDOS. With high temperatures, all backcountry users are asked to be extra vigilant and fire smart. BC Parks: 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, fuel and accelerants 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.

Links and Resources

EmergencyInfoBC

Online source for emergency alerts: <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>

DriveBC

Road conditions and closures: <http://www.drivebc.ca/>

BC Air Quality

Air Quality Health Index: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air>

For more information visit the RDOS website www.rdos.bc.ca.

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

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