



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

July 14, 2017 at 11:00 am

Volunteers Needed for Clerical Work at Princeton Reception Centre

The Princeton Emergency Support Services (ESS) Reception Centre at 148 Old Hedley Road is looking for volunteers to help with paperwork. This is a critical part of ensuring people displaced by fire are taken care of and have access to services. Anyone able to come to the Reception Centre and volunteer is asked to call 250-295-0202 before coming in.

The number of people registered at the Princeton, BC Reception Center is 528. The Reception Centre has received people displaced from other wildfires in BC. The Province of BC has extended the time available for ESS housing and services for people displaced by fires from 3 days to 7. Additional days may be added on a day by day basis.

No changes to Evacuation Orders or Alerts since July 10 in the RDOS area. Number of homes evacuated 350 with additional 257 properties on advisory Evacuation Alert.

Both Princeton Summerland Road and the adjacent Trans Canada Trail are closed from 1785 Princeton Summerland Rd to Hembrie Mountain Rd. Please respect all signs and flaggers restricting access to evacuated areas. Highway 5A remains closed from Princeton to Laird Lake.

An Emergency Support Services Reception Centre has been set up at the Riverside Community Centre in Princeton at 148 Old Hedley Road. All affected people or property owners within the Evacuation Order area are asked to register at the Riverside Community Centre in Princeton at 148 Old Hedley Road or call 250-295-0202. The hours of the reception centre are now 9 am to 4 pm unless further evacuations are required.

Across BC there have been reports of individuals fraudulently soliciting donations for fire victims. Many people across BC are trying to help but, with any event like this, some individuals are trying to take advantage. The BC Wildfire Service has created a page recommending charities or organizations that can accept donations for people displaced by wildfires.

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/donate-to-the-british-columbia-fires-appeal>

Information will be updated at www.rdos.bc.ca including links to interactive maps where residents can type in their property address to see if they are in Evacuation Order or Alert areas. The Regional District Emergency Operations Centre can be contacted at 250-490-4225.



Background

RDOS EOC Page: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/news-events/eoc/current-eoc/>

Interactive Map of Evacuation Orders and Alerts with RDOS boundaries at:

<http://rdos.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=c776a549a0d04f0d8c334755334f414c>

BC Wildfire Service Information 10 Km NE of Princeton (K60643):

<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp?ID=621>

DriveBC shows that Highway 5A between Aspen Grove and Princeton has been closed to traffic. Consult www.drivebc.com for updates on closure of all local roads.

Media Contact for July 14, 2017

Cameron Baughen, RDOS Information Officer

cbaughen@rdos.bc.ca

Primary: 250-490-4203 Cell: 250-486-4658