



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

July 16, 2017 at Noon

Penticton ESS Set Up at Penticton Community Centre for Evacuees from Interior Fires

1. Penticton Opens ESS Reception Centre to Help Evacuees

Penticton Emergency Support Services (ESS) has set up a Reception Centre for evacuees from the Cariboo and Thompson-Nicola regions at the Penticton Community Centre at 325 Power Street. The intent is to help communities in the BC Interior deal with thousands of people evacuated from Williams Lake and other areas.

The Penticton ESS Reception Centre phone number is 250-328-2702. Evacuees requiring local lodging and food vouchers are asked to register in person at the Penticton Reception Centre at the Penticton Community Centre at 325 Power Street.

2. Allison Lake Structure Fire

A structure fire occurred in the Allison Lake area along Highway 5A north of Princeton. This fire was unrelated to the nearby wildfire and is a separate incident. Allison Lake remains north of the mandatory Evacuation Order affecting properties on Highway 5A north of Princeton. Fire crews responded to the fire and there is no increased risk to nearby properties at this time.

3. Information Meetings Held in Princeton Area

Information meetings were held in Princeton and at the Erris Fire Hall last night. Representatives of the Wildfire Service, RCMP, RDOS, Town of Princeton and Emergency Social Services were in attendance to answer questions.

Fire officials stated that they will be watching the fire closely this weekend and will reassess Evacuation Orders and road closures on Monday when winds are expected to lessen. A further information meeting will be held in Princeton at the Riverside Community Centre at 4 pm on Tuesday July 18th. A potential meeting will also be held at the Erris Fire Hall at 6 pm that day depending on the movement of the fire and the closure of Princeton Summerland Road.

4. Help with Animals

Homes in Evacuation Alert areas should make arrangements to deal with livestock and pets before an Evacuation Order is issued for their property. The Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team (CDART) is a team of volunteers that assist with any type of pet or livestock in an



emergency. These volunteers are set up at the Princeton rodeo grounds and can help remove and care for animals, at no charge, for people in Evacuation Order or Alert areas.

In Princeton their number at this time is 250-295-3250. People interested in donating or volunteering can visit www.cdart.org.

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 16, 2017

Cameron Baughen, RDOS Information Officer

cbaughen@rdos.bc.ca

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