



REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN PRESS RELEASE

July 20, 2006

Planning for a Heat Wave in the Okanagan-Similkameen

Environment Canada has released a weather statement that advises of a record breaking heat wave in Southern British Columbia over this weekend. The South Okanagan can expect temperatures from the mid-thirties to low forties.

We are now into the fire season and it is easy to recall the fires of 2003. "The Regional District and its municipal partners are prepared and ready to deal with fires and all hazards that affect residents throughout the region" stated RDOS Chair Dan Ashton.

The Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen would like to take this opportunity to remind residents and visitors to be cautious of the hot, dry weather and to please consider the following safety tips:

- Please continue to use fire responsibly and if you see a forest fire call 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 or your cell phone.
- Be aware that increased use of air conditioners can put strain on power grids.
- Please check on friends and neighbors, especially those that are frail, elderly or live alone.
- Extra precaution should be taken by anybody undertaking any outdoor activities through this period. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Please refer to the '*Home Owners Fire Smart Manual*' for tips on protecting your home and property from interface fires.
- If you live in an interface area, pre-plan how to evacuate your home, with your family. It is always better to plan ahead, than to wish you had.
- Please visit the RDOS website at www.rdos.bc.ca for further valuable emergency preparedness information.

D. Ashton
RDOS Board Chair

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