

July 10, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.

EOC – 17-09

For Immediate Release

## Evacuation alert issued for areas near Williams Lake

*Williams Lake, B.C.* – The Cariboo Regional District is issuing an evacuation alert for fringe areas around Williams Lake, due to weather events forecasted for Wednesday. This predicted weather has the potential to push fires west of Williams Lake towards the City of Williams Lake at a rapid pace.

At this point, the alert is precautionary, but it is important to give residents ample warning to allow everyone to make all necessary preparations.

The evacuation alert applies to the following areas. A map is available at <http://bit.ly/2tKAUtz>

- All areas east of the Fraser River from the existing evacuation order at Soda Creek to 9.0 km south of the Sheep Creek bridge, including English Road.
- Directly East to the southern end of Chimney Lake, continuing east to Wright Station Road at the north end of Lac La Hache.
- All areas west of highway 97 from Wright Station Road to the Williams Lake City limits, north along highway 97, including all fringe areas of the City of Williams Lake including the areas of Fox Mountain, Pine Valley, Commodore Crescent, Glendale, Wildwood, Bull Mountain and Deep Creek not already evacuated, to the exiting evacuation order area at Soda Creek.

All existing CRD evacuation orders and alerts around the City of Williams Lake remain in place.

### Preparing for evacuation:

- Locate all family members or co-workers and arrange a place to meet outside the evacuation area.
- Gather essential items such as medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers (i.e. insurance), immediate care needs for dependents and, if you choose, keepsakes (photographs, etc.), and have these items available for quick departure.
- Be ready to evacuate any family members with special needs and/or children.
- Make arrangements to move pets and livestock to a safe area.

More information can be found in a Frequently Asked Questions document here: <http://bit.ly/2u2giDy>

An evacuation alert is a notification of potential danger that might arise. **An evacuation alert does NOT mean you have to evacuate; rather, you should be prepared to evacuate with short notice.** The reason evacuation alerts are issued is to notify residents of the potential for unstable fire conditions.

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This alert may be followed by an order to evacuate. When an evacuation order is issued, you must leave your home as soon as possible.

An emergency reception centre has been established at Lake City Secondary (Carson Campus) and any persons self-evacuating should report to this centre.

Should the status of the alert change, the public will be notified immediately through all means possible and everyone is encouraged to monitor local radio stations, legitimate social media sites, as well as the CRD Emergency Operation Centre Facebook page, Twitter (@CaribooRD) and website (cariboord.ca).

To contact the EOC Public Information Line, please call our new toll-free number at 1-866-759-4977.