



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Regional Update on Evacuation Alerts and Orders

Williams Lake, B.C. – Yesterday, Saturday, July 15, was an eventful day in the Cariboo Region with the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) issuing four evacuation orders and four evacuation alerts. The City of Williams Lake also issued an evacuation order for the entire city.

Throughout the Cariboo, approximately 57,000 people are currently affected by evacuation orders and alerts, including the City of Williams Lake and the District of 100 Mile House. The total area in the regional district, not including municipalities, affected by orders and alerts now exceeds 23,000 square kilometres.

As the status of evacuation alerts or orders change, the CRD will send out an update to notify the affected residents. Residents are encouraged to register for the Cariboo Chilcotin Emergency Notification System by visiting the cariboord.ca or their own municipality's website.

Previous to yesterday's fire events, the CRD confirmed that eight known structures were lost due to wildfire. These property owners have all been notified. The CRD continues to gather information about the status of structures throughout the region and will contact property owners individually before releasing specific details.

For up-to-date information on evacuation alert and order areas, please visit cariboord.ca. An interactive map is available where people can enter an address to see if the location is on alert or order. An overview map is also available for download here: <http://bit.ly/2tvqpsk>

Evacuees who need Emergency Social Services (ESS) should phone the Red Cross at 1-800-863-6582. Callers will be able to register for financial aid as well as get directions to emergency lodging at a location that has space available. For specific questions about Emergency Social Services or to register remotely, please call 1-800-585-9559.

For Cariboo Regional District emergency updates, please visit cariboord.ca or [facebook.com/CRDEmergencyOperations](https://www.facebook.com/CRDEmergencyOperations) or [@CaribooRD](https://twitter.com/CaribooRD). You may also contact the Public Information Line at 1-866-759-4977.

City of Williams Lake Update

Yesterday's evacuation from Williams Lake was orderly and without major incident, despite initial traffic challenges exiting the city. Busses at muster stations across the city successfully evacuated more than 200 residents to Kamloops who did not have the means to leave on their own. The majority of residents have now been evacuated and efforts are underway to get those remaining to safety.

The fire northwest of Williams Lake, which led to the evacuation order, remains outside of city limits. There is no update at this stage as to when residents will be able to return to Williams Lake.

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Find City of Williams Lake information at the City's website williamslake.ca and Facebook page facebook.com/CityWilliamsLake and Twitter @CityWL. For further information, please call the City of Williams Lake EOC at 250-392-2364 or 250-392-2365.

District of 100 Mile House Update

The District of 100 Mile House has been under evacuation order since Sunday, July 9. Thanks to continued patrols around mill sites and the protection efforts of firefighters, the Gustafsen fire remains outside of the community boundary with no structures being damaged.

There is no update at this time as to when residents will be able to return to 100 Mile House.

Updates from the District of 100 Mile House are available at www.100milehouse.com or by calling 250-395-2434.

Throughout the Cariboo, hundreds of firefighters from local communities, from across the province and from Alberta are working to suppress the wildfires throughout the Cariboo region. A full complement of RCMP officers is also on hand, ensuring the security of residential and commercial properties.

Emergency Operations Offices remain fully staffed to monitor the ongoing fire situation and security, ensure remaining residents exit the area safely, work on return and recovery plans, and update the public with reliable status information.

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