

July 28, 2017
EOC-17-39
For Immediate Release

Highway 20 corridor opened for public access

Williams Lake, B.C. – The Cariboo Regional District has adjusted the evacuation orders in the Chilcotin to allow traffic flow eastbound and westbound along the entirety of Highway 20.

To provide a corridor of access, the CRD has adjusted several current evacuation orders by creating evacuation alert zones along Highway 20 stretching five kilometres north and south of the highway. Residents who live in this corridor can return home but remain on evacuation alert.

Since this area remains on evacuation alert, anyone returning must continue to be prepared to evacuate their premises or property should an evacuation be required. As with previous evacuation alerts, residents will be given as much advance notice as possible prior to evacuation; however limited notice may be given due to changing conditions.

In conjunction with the opening of Highway 20, Tl'esqox (Toosey) is downgrading evacuation orders for their community to evacuation alerts through the jurisdiction of their Chief and council. Please contact their local First Nation government directly.

Tl'etinqox (Anaham) community self-evacuated, although Chief and council never issued an order or alert. Please contact their local First Nation government directly.

Yunesit'in (Stone) remains on evacuation order as per Chief and council. For more information, please contact their local First Nation government directly.

Other than the Highway 20 corridor and above mentioned communities, evacuation order areas remain unchanged in the Chilcotin. To see current maps reflecting these changes, visit cariboord.ca. A searchable digital map is also available at arcg.is/2uGik7U. The map now includes fire perimeter data as well.

Wildfire activity continues in the Chilcotin and conditions are monitored daily. Residents are encouraged to follow www.drivebc.ca for up to date road information.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WHEN AN EVACUATION ORDER HAS BEEN DOWNGRADED TO AN ALERT

Upon notification of an evacuation order downgrade, you should remain prepared for an evacuation by:

- Having a plan to transport all family members or co-workers outside the evacuation area, should the area brought back under evacuation order.
- Keeping essential items readily available for a quick departure, including medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers (i.e. insurance), immediate care needs for dependents and, if you choose, keepsakes (photographs, etc.).
- Ensuring that any disabled persons and/or children are prepared for departure.
- Ensuring that pets and livestock remain in a safe area.

- Ensuring that you have accommodation options for your family, if possible. Reception Centre will be made available again if required.
- Monitoring reliable news sources for evacuation order information.

Find Cariboo Regional District information at:

- cariboord.ca
- [facebook.com/CRDEmergencyOperations](https://www.facebook.com/CRDEmergencyOperations)
- [@CaribooRD](https://www.instagram.com/CaribooRD)

Call the CRD's public information line at 1-866-759-4977.

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Media Contact:

Emily Epp, EOC Communications
Cariboo Regional District Emergency Operations Centre
250-302-9003
eocommunications@cariboord.ca