

August 14, 2017  
EOC-17-79  
For Immediate Release



## Order downgraded to alert in Canim Lake and Hawkins Lake area

*Williams Lake, B.C.* – The Cariboo Regional District and Canim Lake Indian Band announced today that residents are allowed to return to the Canim Lake area. Due to successful firefighting efforts in the area, the wildfire threat has been reduced which means residents can return under an evacuation alert.

Before deciding to return, residents are encouraged to consider that wildfire activity continues in these areas, air quality remains poor and the areas are still on evacuation alert.

See a map of the affected areas here: <http://bit.ly/2w3TXTp>

Wildfires remain active and firefighting activities continue in the area. It is important for residents to stay out of active wildfire areas. Interfering in an active fire area will result in crews ceasing ground and air operations potentially endangering nearby properties.

Since this area remains on evacuation alert, residents must be prepared in case the area receives a future evacuation order on short notice. Local governments may not have time to go door-to-door should a new evacuation order be issued. Information about what to do when on evacuation alert is listed below.

It is also important to note that air quality remains poor as a result of smoke from nearby fire activity. Those with respiratory issues, small children and the elderly should consider this before they choose to return to the area.

Residents returning to the area are strongly encouraged to register for the Cariboo Chilcotin Emergency Notification System to receive a text, call or email regarding Evacuation Alerts and Orders:  
<https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612292#/signup>

### Assessing Danger Trees on Affected Properties

For rural properties that have been impacted by wildfire, residents should be aware there may be dangerous trees in wildfire affected areas. Home owners and private land owners are recommended to work with an insurance agency to have an assessment done by a qualified arborist on their private property.

### Remaining On Evacuation Alert

Since the area remains on evacuation alert, residents should remain prepared for an evacuation by:

- Having a plan to transport all family members or co-workers outside the area, should the area be 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 dependents 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. A Reception Centre will be made available again if required.
- Monitoring reliable news sources for evacuation order information. Further information will be issued as it becomes available.

For Cariboo Regional District information, please visit [cariboord.ca](http://cariboord.ca) or [facebook.com/CRDEmergencyOperations](https://facebook.com/CRDEmergencyOperations) or [@CaribooRD](https://twitter.com/CaribooRD) or call the CRD's public information line at 1-866-759-4977.

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