

# NEWS RELEASE

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EOC-17-114

For Immediate Release

## Evacuation orders for Plateau Fire downgraded to alerts

*Williams Lake, B.C.* – Due to a reduced wildfire risk, the Cariboo Regional District, Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation, Nazko First Nation and T̓sideldel/Redstone have downgraded the evacuation orders around the Plateau Fire to evacuation alerts, which means residents are allowed to return to the area.

Evacuation orders have been downgraded for the following areas:

- the CRD areas north of Highway 20 to south of Tzenzaicut Lake,
- the CRD areas around Kluskus, Blackwater, Clisbako and Nazko,
- Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation areas,
- the remaining Nazko First Nation areas; and
- the remaining T̓sideldel/Redstone areas.

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.

The following maps indicate the new alert areas:

- North of Highway 20 to South of Tzenzaicut Lake Area - <http://bit.ly/2xeweQf>
- Kluskus, Blackwater, Clisbako & Nazko Area - <http://bit.ly/2xUf8EE>

Adjacent areas remain on evacuation alert. View a searchable online map of current alerts and orders here: <http://arcg.is/2uGik7U>

Residents are returning to an area that has been profoundly affected by wildfire. Wildfires remain active and firefighting activities continue in the area. To ensure public safety, stay out of fire affected areas and obey all warning and hazard signs. Interfering in an active fire area will result in crews ceasing ground and air operations potentially endangering nearby properties. For information on current area restrictions in the Cariboo Fire Centre visit: [bcwildfire.ca](http://bcwildfire.ca).

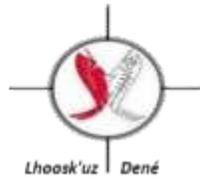
Since these areas remain on evacuation alert, residents must be prepared in case the area receives a future evacuation order on short notice. Local governments may not have time to go door-to-door should a new evacuation order be issued. Information about what to do when on evacuation alert is listed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

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## Resiliency Centre Information

Red Cross is currently located at Boitano Mall in Williams Lake and available for assistance. They can be reached at 1-800-863-6582. For any inquiries for Emergency Support Services (ESS) please call 1-800-585-9599.

## Assessing Danger Trees on Affected Properties

For rural properties that have been impacted by wildfire, residents should be aware there may be danger 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, which is open today (Sept. 10) until 2 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the week.

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## Media Contacts:

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