

Sept. 11, 2017
EOC-17-115
For Immediate Release

Changes to orders and alerts in the South Cariboo

Williams Lake, B.C. – The Cariboo Regional District announced some changes to alerts and orders in the South Cariboo today. The Highway 24 Corridor Evacuation Order has been partially downgraded to an Alert and residents can return home in areas around Watch Lake, Fawn Lake and the northeastern side of Green Lake. Highway 24 is open to all traffic in both directions.

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

Further, the Highway 24 Corridor Evacuation Alert #2 has been partially lifted in areas north of Horse Lake Road and east of Highway 97 (including Deka Lake, Sulphurous Lake, Horse Lake, Lone Butte and areas northwest of Green Lake) to all clear. As a result, the Horse Lake School will be able to open. Visit www.sd27.bc.ca for more information.

Due to ongoing wildfire operations, an evacuation order remains in place for areas south of Highway 24 between Watch Lake and Sheridan Lake.

The following maps indicate the revised order and alert areas:

- Highway 24 Corridor evacuation alert lift area: <http://bit.ly/2xW1Gjg>
- Hwy 24 Area #3 evacuation alert: <http://bit.ly/2w2alnQ>
- Hwy 24 Area #2 evacuation order: <http://bit.ly/2wStlZq>

View a searchable online map of current CRD alerts and orders here: <http://arcg.is/2uGik7U>. For information about current orders and alerts in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District, visit www.tnrd.ca.

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.

Since some of 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>

-Page 2-

Red Cross and ESS Information

Emergency Support Services are available in 100 Mile House at 726 Alpine Road, the former RCMP detachment. They are open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 587-645-4842.

Red Cross Hotline is 1-800-863-6582 and is now located at 475 Birch Avenue (across from Home hardware), 100 Mile House.

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 some area are 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 or 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.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Cariboo Regional District Emergency Operations Centre

EOC Communications

250-302-9003

eocommunications@cariboord.ca