

Sept. 15, 2017

EOC-17-119

For Immediate Release

## **Order south of Highway 24 to be downgraded to alert Saturday afternoon**

*Williams Lake, B.C.* – Effective Saturday, Sept. 16 at 2:00 p.m., the Cariboo Regional District will downgrade the Highway 24 corridor evacuation order to an alert and residents in the area may return home after this time.

Before deciding to return, residents are encouraged to consider that wildfire activity continues in these areas and the area remains under an evacuation alert.

The following map indicates the alert areas:

- Highway 24 Corridor Area #5 Alert - <http://bit.ly/2jtXTY7>

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](http://www.tnrd.ca).

Residents are returning to an area that has been 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 the 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.

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>

### **Red Cross Information**

Red Cross is now located at 475 Birch Avenue (across from Home Hardware) in 100 Mile House. Contact their hotline at 1-800-863-6582.

### **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. Homeowners and private landowners are recommended to work with an insurance agency to have an assessment done by a qualified arborist on their private property.

-Page 2-

## Remaining On Evacuation Alert

Since some areas 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](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. 15) until 4:30 p.m. The phone line will be closed over the weekend and our hours going forward will be 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

-30-

## Media Contact:

### Cariboo Regional District Emergency Operations Centre

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