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Silverton Wildfire Operational Update #5

Monday, July 29, 2024 3:00 p.m.

Aylwin Creek Fire and Komonko Creek Fire

Silverton, BC – The entire Village of Silverton remains on evacuation order today. BC Wildfire Services has not been able to give us any indication on when the evacuation order will be downgraded or rescinded.

The lighter winds yesterday meant decreased fire activity. Cloudy periods are expected this afternoon, with a 40 – 70% chance of showers, as well as a risk of thundershowers in the early evening.

The Aylwin Creek Fire is mapped at 637.2 hectares. Crews and support personnel are relocating to a fire camp in Winlaw today. Crews are working to consolidate and strengthen the control line at Bannock Point by applying water to the fire and linking control lines in with existing features. Along Highway 6, crews continue to remove fuel between the fire and the highway. Heavy equipment continues to look for opportunities to create further guards, and structure protection units have set up equipment.

The Komonko Creek Fire is mapped at 2288 hectares, and it did not show significant growth yesterday. Significant progress was made by crews and heavy equipment on the west flank of the fire, near the northern end. As well, crews continue to remove fuel between the fire and the highway and structure protection crews continue to deploy apparatus and equipment on areas of concern.

Equipment and personnel on the Aylwin Creek and Komonko Creek Fires include two unit crews, eleven fallers, seventeen pieces of heavy equipment as well as seventeen machine operators. There are a total of 8 helicopters on the Slocan Lake Complex, as well as Structure Protection Units.

The New Denver Post Office has reopened today with regular hours resuming. The Kootenay Savings Credit Union in New Denver was closed on Friday and today, and we expect to get an update tomorrow on what hours they will be open going forward. The BC Liquor Store in New Denver is open again for regular summer hours.

A local Go Fund Me has been set up to assist with the costs to help Wildfire Volunteers, evacuees, Firefighters, etc. If you are interested in making a donation, please visit Fundraiser by Danika Skye Hammond: Help Slocan Valley Wildlife Volunteers Evacs & Firefighters (https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-slocan-valley-wildfire-volunteers-evacs-firefighters?fbclid=IwY2xjawEUnc1leHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHZnHpA9iIHcmSziGMmXsWpgXSqf1IG4skviNhxEFa8swQMub0TCCxN9TUQ_aem_HFillwib-CJHB0vSBtuaeA)

A Boil Water Notice remains in place for the Village of Silverton's water system on the recommendation of Interior Health. This is a precautionary step, due to the potential for ground water contamination from fire fighting activities in the area. All users are advised to bring water intended for consumption, oral hygiene or food preparation to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute or use an alternate, safe source of water.

An Area Restriction remains in effect for the entire Slocan Lake Complex – for Silverton, this begins at the Silverton Forest Service Road (also known as 4 Mile Creek Road) and extends all the way south to Slocan. Highway 6 remains closed in both directions to protect both public and responder safety.

For more detailed information from BC Wildfire Services specific to the Komonko and Aylwin Creek fires, please visit the following websites:

<https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/incidents?fireYear=2024&incidentNumber=N51210&source=list>

<https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/incidents?fireYear=2024&incidentNumber=N51065&source=list>

The Village of Silverton will provide regular updates with as much information as possible. Please continue to support our fire fighters and the teams that are working hard to protect our community.

Village of Silverton