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Silverton Wildfire Operational Update #8

Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:00 p.m.

Aylwin Creek Fire and Komonko Creek Fire

Silverton, BC – The Village of Silverton remains on Evacuation Alert.

An Evacuation Alert requires that you stay vigilant and be prepared to leave the area at a moment's notice. It is recommended that you have an emergency kit ready and ensure preparedness in the event the situation worsens, and an Evacuation Order must be put back in place. Part of your plan should include where you can go if evacuated.

Please continue to boil your water intended for consumption, oral hygiene or food preparation for at least 1 minute or use an alternate safe source of water. We are working on getting the Boil Water Advisory rescinded as soon as possible.

The temperatures today are forecast to reach a high of 35 degrees, and relative humidity levels are expected to drop to a minimum of 35 per cent. These hot and dry conditions are expected to continue over the next few days. Unfortunately this creates the potential for fire behaviour to reach rank 5, which is an extremely vigorous surface fire. Please remain vigilant and watch for any change to the current Evacuation Alert status.

On the Aylwin Creek Fire yesterday, crews were monitoring activity along highway 6, building control lines and directly attacking the fire by applying water, as the fire activity increased in the afternoon. Helicopters were able to provide support for crews by bucketing the fire to decrease its activity. Today, crews will continue to monitor fire activity along the control lines, and tree fallers will be supporting them by making the worksite safe. Structure protection crews will also be continuing their work.

The Komonko Creek Fire will see crews laying hoses along existing guards for water access. They will also continue to remove fuel between the fire and the control lines and closely monitor fire activity. Tree fallers continue to work alongside crews, and structure protection crews are continuing with their work as well. Helicopters will be available to support crews by bucketing the fire when required.

An Incident Management Team is continuing to command the Slocan Lake Complex fires. There are currently 103 firefighters, 7 tree fallers and 9 falling support personnel responding to the two fires. The Slocan Lakes Complex has eight helicopters assigned. Seventeen pieces of heavy equipment and 17 machine operators are continuing their supporting response efforts on the two wildfires.

Recreators are reminded to please stay off the lake in the areas when skimmers and helicopters are operating. The aviation equipment will be using local water sources, and in the interest of crew and public safety, the public is urged to keep well away from areas where airtankers or helicopters are working on the fires.

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. Please stay out of these areas and allow the fire fighters and other responders to complete their important work.

For 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>

There will be no updates over the long weekend, so please check the BC Wildfire Services sites noted above, and the Regional District's website for updates. (www.rdck.ca) Please continue to support our fire fighters and the teams that are working hard to protect our community.

Village of Silverton