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Silverton Wildfire Operational Update #2

Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:00 p.m.

Aylwin Creek Fire and Komonko Creek Fire

Silverton, BC – The entire Village of Silverton was placed on evacuation order yesterday just after 6 pm. Residents and visitors present in the community were provided some time to gather their possessions and leave the community towards the north. Everyone was asked to register for Emergency Support Services either in person at the Nakusp & District Community Complex or register online or by phone. Details can be found on the Regional District of Central Kootenay website. (www.rdck.ca)

Increased winds yesterday evening and overnight fanned the fires in the area, but the Aylwin Creek Fire did not move any closer to the Village of Silverton boundaries. As the low pressure system moves across the area, temperatures will decrease and there will be some improved recoveries of relative humidity with rain in the forecast. Yesterday's warmer temperatures and winds resulted in fire behaviour between rank 1 and rank 3, depending on the fuels, terrain and weather conditions.

Fire departments from Kelowna, Lake Country, Big White, Beasley, Blewett, and others, as well as our own local departments of Silverton and New Denver have been patrolling for hot spots within Silverton as well as the surrounding area. We are immensely grateful for everyone's help!

A Boil Water Notice has been issued 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 (e.g. use of retardant). 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.

There has been no reported change in the size of the Aylwin Creek or Komonko Creek fires, although conditions have not been favourable for crews to fly to ascertain fire boundaries. The Komonko Creek fire remains mapped at 534 hectares in size, and the Aylwin Creek fire is at 400 hectares. Both fires remain out of control. Today the fires are being actioned by two unit crews, four operational single resources, five helicopters, two line locators, 14 pieces of heavy equipment and 7 machine operators under the direction of a new Incident Management Team that assumed command on July 22nd. The Komonko Creek and Aylwin Creek fires are now part of the Slokan Lake Complex of fires.

The operational objectives today are also unchanged from yesterday on the Aylwin Creek Fire. Crews continue to construct a hand guard with the assistance of heavy equipment and monitoring the fire's proximity to properties and maintaining fire line security. Heavy equipment is establishing machine guard, and work continues on control lines to tie into the cliffs above Slokan Lake that is a natural guard. Structure Protection crews continue to deploy structure protection on areas of concern, and helicopters are supporting with reconnaissance and water delivery whenever visibility improves enough to make that safely possible.

On the Komonko Creek Fire, crews are focusing on the construction of control lines from the Red Mountain Road area, northwards. Crews are being supported by heavy equipment constructing machine guards from Red Mountain Road. Two line locators helped determine the area of work and locations for potential containment lines to be built. Structure protection crews are also continuing to deploy structure protection apparatus and equipment on areas of concern.

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