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Silverton Wildfire Operational Update #7

Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:00 p.m.

Aylwin Creek Fire and Komonko Creek Fire

Silverton, BC – The Village of Silverton remains on Evacuation Alert. The Evacuation Order was downgraded to an Alert yesterday at 3:00 pm. The Village of New Denver’s Evacuation Alert was rescinded yesterday as well. Unfortunately, our neighbours to the south of the Village including the Red Mountain Road area remains under Evacuation Order at this time.

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.

The Village remains on a Boil Water Alert. 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. A water sample has been submitted for testing, and we will advise you as soon as the Boil Water Alert is rescinded.

Village staff will address any matters that need tending to as soon as possible. We ask for the community’s patience as they restart and begin the process of catching up with responsibilities. **Public Works will provide a special garbage collection run on Thursday, August 1st. Please have your garbage out at the curb by 8 am.** If you have any questions or concerns, please email to info@silverton.ca

Drier and warmer weather is forecast for the rest of the week, which is expected to lead to increased fire behaviour again. There is some potential for dry lightening starting Friday afternoon. Please remain vigilant and watch for any change to the current Evacuation Alert status.

On the Aylwin Creek Fire, guard construction on the south flank of the fire connecting Highway 6 to Slocan Lake is complete. Crews are continuing to strengthen control lines on the north flank of the fire and remove fuel between Highway 6 and the fire. Tree fallers are assessing for danger trees and removing them to make the worksite safe for crews. Assessment, testing and monitoring of structure protection apparatus is ongoing.

The Komonko Creek Fire will see crews laying hoses along the guard east of Red Mountain Road. Fuel is also being removed between the fire and the highway and structure protection crews are actively deploying and monitoring apparatus and equipment on areas of concern. Tree fallers continue to work alongside crews to make the worksite safe.

The crews and support personnel for both fires are operating out of a fire camp in Winlaw, just south of the Slocan Lake Complex. There are currently 63 firefighters, 7 tree fallers and 9 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.

Now that residents are back in the community, BC Wildfire wants to remind recreators to please stay off the lake in the areas, as skimmers and helicopters will continue to support response efforts when visibility is improved enough to permit aviation to resume operations. 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 operating.

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>

These updates will continue as long as the Village remains on Evacuation Alert but may become less frequent if there is no new information to share. Please continue to support our fire fighters and the teams that are working hard to protect our community.

Village of Silverton