



Okanagan Indian Band

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EOC Update

August 5, 2021

White Rock Lake fire update @ 4:30 PM

Way' Members,

Last night we expanded the Evacuation Order for the Six Mile-Nashwito area. Today OKIB issued an Evacuation Order for homes in the Newport area.

We also issued an Evacuation Alert for homes in the Salmon River area. People in this area should be preparing to evacuate so please tell your friends and relatives.

*As we have seen, there may not be much time between the evacuation alert and the evacuation order. If you live in an area under **Evacuation Alert, now is the time to get ready to leave, should an evacuation order be issued.** Please tell your friends and family to get their go-bags prepared. Please take your pets with you and be prepared to care for them.*

The weather overnight and into tomorrow is expected to be windy with gusts of 20 to 40 km/hr so fire activity will be high, which will pose challenges for suppression efforts. It will be a challenging 48 hours.

Unfortunately, the winds are not blowing in our favour, so the fire will likely continue to advance toward the reserve overnight. Currently it is 8.5 km from our border. In similar winds earlier this week, the fire advanced 18 km, so the potential for disaster is high.

Fortunately, we have structural protection crews and equipment positioned throughout the Reserve standing by to protect homes and properties. Also, we expect cooler temperatures over the coming days and there is a possibility of rain, so that is positive.

We also have close to 200 people working on the fire, and 13 aircraft, plus the structural protection crews. We feel we have done all we can to protect the assets on reserve. Now we must pray for rain and calm winds.

We have received reports of people choosing not to evacuate. **If you live in an area under Evacuation Order is important that you evacuate now.** The structural protection units will not protect occupied properties, so if you want your property to be eligible for protection you must evacuate now.

Additionally, aerial tankers will not drop retardant or water on occupied properties, so your decision to stay affects you, your neighbours and other members.

If you have an RV please consider taking it with you as there is a lack of hotel rooms provincially. If you have family and friends that you can stay with please make arrangements now.

In summary, please do not underestimate this fire. **Prepare to evacuate if you are under Evacuation Alert. And evacuate now if you are under Evacuation Order.**