



Okanagan Indian Band

12420 Westside Road
Vernon, BC V1H 2A4
250-542-4328

EOC Update

August 6, 2021

White Rock Lake fire update @ 1:00 PM

Way' Members,

We expect the fire will reach Whiteman's area this evening (approx. 6 pm) and it is expected to be very aggressive. The fire grew 4,000 to 5,000 hectares yesterday. Please pray for the winds to change direction.

As of this moment we have not lost any buildings to the fire however that could change today.

Approximately 1,050 OKIB members have been evacuated in addition to several hundred people south of the reserve and hundreds of people in the Monte Lake-Falkland area. The evacuation is taxing all the ESS reception centres in the region so please be patient. Be sure to register with ESS even if you do not require assistance at this time. Call 236-599-4022 or 250-241-6945.

The fire jumped highway 97 yesterday at Monte Lake, wiping out the community. There may not be much time between the evacuation alert and the evacuation order, so **people in the Evacuation Alert area should be ready to leave so please tell your friends and family** to get their go-bags prepared.

The weather today 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. 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 125 structural protection crew staff.

The structural protection crews will be on site to protect buildings and they are not permitted to protect homes that have not been evacuated, so for the sake of your property and your neighbours. So if your home is under evacuation order please evacuate now.

We have received reports of people choosing not to evacuate. We want to reiterate how important it is to evacuate NOW. Flames could reach as high as 400 feet. This is not a defensible fire so please leave now.

The structural protection units will not protect occupied properties, so if any friends or relatives have not yet evacuated and they want their 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 other members and your neighbours

If you are staying in a hotel and you have access to an RV, please consider giving up your room to another evacuee and moving to a campground.

For anyone who is on evacuation order or evacuation alert, please take your pets with you and be prepared to care for them.

If you have an RV please consider taking it with you as there is a lack of hotel rooms provincially.

Please do not underestimate this fire. Last night the fire advanced 18 km on one front, so the potential for disaster is high.

