



Okanagan Indian Band

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EOC Update

August 21, 2021

White Rock Lake fire update @ 11:00 AM

Way' OKIB Community

Our EOC has been notified by the BCWS that there are planned hand ignitions and so there will be an increase of smoke in the area.

This morning we experienced light rain showers and are hoping they continue throughout the day. Our community is expecting winds to come from the southwest and are not expected to exceed sustained winds of 20km/h.

In the late evening and overnight hours we are seeing an increase in fire activity on the mountain. There are a variety of factors which contribute to the visibility. We do not have the immediate response of air support as flights are restricted out of safety for personnel. There are crews who are working the "swing-shift", so they work later into the evening and are monitoring active fire areas in case immediate action is needed. The cooler temperatures and change in humidity near midnight reduce the fire activity until the early morning when the fire crews come in for the day. Without sunlight the fire becomes more visible and some of the activity which has happened throughout the day is still ongoing and now visible.

BC Wildfire Service reported that there was no growth overnight and all visible activity was within the guard perimeter. BWS plans to complete the fire guard from Irish Creek to Six Mile Creek in preparation for hand-ignitions if the weather conditions are suitable. Structural Protection Units are continuing to triage and assess areas of high-risk.

The Provincial Health Officer has implemented new regulations for COVID-19 safety. These restrictions will impact how our ESS is able to process evacuees and renewals for support. For those registered evacuees staying in Osoyoos, an ESS representative will be contacting you today to arrange a time to process your renewal tomorrow. Please carefully follow the directions provided to ensure your renewal is completed. A plan is being implemented which will be posted at the reception centre, and complies with Provincial Health Regulations. Please observe signage and practice lateral kindness towards all the volunteers.

The OKIB EOC will continue to monitor the current situation and provide updates to community as we receive them.

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See the photos on the following pages.



