



# Okanagan Indian Band

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

## EOC Update

August 29, 2021

### White Rock Lake fire update @ 11:00 AM

Way' OKIB Community,

Today's weather will see temperatures in the high 20's and wind beginning in the afternoon from the southwest at 20km/h.

BC Wildfire Service indicates that there are 369 crews still working on suppression activities on this fire. There is 67 Structural Protection Units working mainly in the Irish Creek area. We will see some increased fire activity as the crews will begin small test ignitions in the Irish Creek area to see how the fuels respond. This will help determine if the large planned ignition is possible.

Our EOC is working on the transition from Response to Recovery and in some cases, this process will overlap. There are no definitive timelines for this as we are still responding to an active fire, listed by BC Wildfire Service as "Out of Control". As we are anticipating the type of support people will need when returning home, we continue to prepare for the planned ignition which could see some residents returning home later than others. The planned ignition is also weather dependent so we can only prepare for the eventuality.

Our EOC team examines many variables to the fire activity. Once the threat to homes from wildfire has been mitigated and we assess properties for safe return. We consider if the home currently has power, or if it lost power at all. Our teams also have to consider if damaged trees near the homes pose a risk. If they are damaged to an extent where they may fall, we have to deploy tree removal teams to the home before residents return.

Many of our EOC team members are OKIB staff and for the first few weeks, were working 7 days a week. We have called in people from other agencies who bring their expertise in planning, operations, communications, and recovery so our staff have the chance to rest. Our EOC is continuing to process Access Permits for areas currently under restriction. If there is a humanitarian need for you to get access to your property, please contact the OKIB EOC at (250) 241-5809. There are guidelines and time restrictions which need to be followed to ensure your safety.

We continue to take part in briefings which provide us with information from Incident Command, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and other support providers like ESS.