

Media Release

Date: July 1, 2021 For immediate release

RDCK Declares State of Local Emergency for Electoral Area J

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has declared a State of Local Emergency for Electoral Area J due to the Merry Creek Wildfire (N51165) 8 Kilometres SW of Castlegar.

Under B.C.'s Emergency Program Act, when a State of Emergency is declared, it provides the RDCK's Emergency Operations Centre greater flexibility to access resources and respond efficiently to the imminent threat of widespread flooding across the region.

"We are issuing the State of Local Emergency due to the Merry Creek wildfire," said Nora Hannon, the RDCK Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Director. "The extreme weather over the past week has resulted in significant concern for fire behavior and conditions in the region."

Updates will be provided on the <u>RDCK Emergency Information Page</u>. Affected residents under order can call 250-352-7701.

The RDCK will continue to update the public as new information is available.

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit <u>www.rdck.ca</u>.

-30-

For further information, please contact:

EOC Information Officer Regional District of Central Kootenay Tel: 250.352-7701 Email: <u>eocinfo@rdck.bc.ca</u>