

Media Release

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Evacuation Order for Michaud Creek wildfire downgraded to an Evacuation Alert

Nelson, BC: On the recommendation of the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is downgrading the Evacuation Order for 184 properties in the Edgewood area south of Robinson Rd to Johnston Creek to an Evacuation Alert. This reduction to an Alert means residents can return to their properties, but must be prepared to leave on short notice should conditions change. See the map below for the specific details.

In total, 356 properties from Johnston Creek and continuing north to Whatshan Lake, including the communities of Edgewood and Needles, are on Evacuation Alert. The RDCK advises residents on Evacuation Alert to remain vigilant and be prepared to leave the area at a moment's notice. It is recommended to prepare an emergency kit and ensure preparedness, including moving pets and livestock to a safe area, in the event the situation worsens and an Evacuation Order is enforced. Part of your plan should include where you can go if evacuated.

The Michaud Creek wildfire was first discovered on July 10 and is currently estimated at 5,981 hectares. The BCWS has determined the cause to be lightning.

Updates or changes to the Evacuation Order and Alert will be provided via the <u>RDCK website</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> as more information becomes available. For details about evacuations and emergency preparedness, along with other resources, please visit <u>www.rdck.ca/eocinfo</u>.

For up to date information on current wildfire activity, conditions and prohibitions, call 1 888 3-FOREST (1 888-336-7378) or visit www.bcwildfire.ca.

For more information about evacuations and emergency preparedness, along with other resources:

- Current RDCK Evacuation Alerts, Orders and Rescinds: <u>www.rdck.ca/eocinfo</u> or call 250-352-7701
- Sign up for RDCK Emergency Notification System to receive notifications
- BC Wildfire Interactive Map of Current Fires
- Public weather alerts for BC from Environment Canada
- Highway closures and conditions from DriveBC
- For the BC Air Quality Health Index
- Emergency preparedness information and tips from the Prepared BC website

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 www.rdck.ca.

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