

## **Media Release**

**Date:** September 15, 2022 For immediate release 4:00 pm

## **Evacuation Alert removed for Johnsons Landing, Birchdale and Fry Creek area**

Nelson, BC: On the recommendation of the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has removed the Evacuation Alert for the area around the Fry Creek wildfire (N71980). These areas include part of Johnsons Landing south of Gar Creek, including the Fry Creek area and community of Birchdale. Located northeast of Kaslo on the east shore of Kootenay Lake in Electoral Area 'D', the area has been on Alert since Thursday, September 8. At this time, the Fry Creek wildfire is no longer threatening the area.

The Fry Creek wildfire was first discovered on August 25 in the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy in steep and inoperable terrain. The cause of the fire is believed to be lightning. Estimated to be 900 hectares, BCWS has utilized all resources at its disposal, including multiple helicopters and an Incident Management Team to fight the wildfire. Originally, the RDCK issued an Evacuation Alert on September 8 for the boat access only community of Birchdale and the Fry Creek area. The Alert was later expanded to include part of Johnsons Landing south of Gar Creek on September 9.

The RDCK advises people to remain vigilant as conditions could change and an Evacuation Alert may be reissued. It is important to remain cautious around areas impacted by wildfire. <u>Click here for more information</u>. As well, it is recommended to prepare an emergency kit and ensure preparedness, including making plans to relocate your pets and livestock to a safe area, in the event of an emergency.

For the most up to date information on current wildfire activity, conditions and prohibitions, call 1.888.336.7378 or visit <a href="https://www.bcwildfire.ca">www.bcwildfire.ca</a>.

Information about Evacuation Orders and Alerts in the RDCK can be found on the <u>RDCK website</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. For details about evacuation and emergency preparedness, along with other resources, please visit <u>www.rdck.ca/eocinfo</u>. The RDCK EOC public inquiry line is 250.352.7701.

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

- Current RDCK Evacuation Alerts, Orders and Rescinds or call 250.352.7701
- Sign up for RDCK Emergency Notification System to receive notifications
- RDCK web map
- BC Wildfire Interactive Map of Current Events
- Fortis BC Outage Map or call 1.866.436.7847
- BC Hydro outage map or call 1.800.224.9376
- Nelson Hydro 1.877.324.9376
- <u>Drive BC</u> for highway closures and road conditions
- For BC Air Quality Health Index
- Prepared BC

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.

-30-

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