

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – BC Wildfires

Fire information

What is the closest fire to the Bella Coola Valley?

The closest wildfire is located 52 kilometres east of Bella Coola in a remote area called 'The Precipice'. Wildfire Service crews have been working hard since July 7th and there is a daily Coastal Wildfire Bulletin with information on the size and location of the fire.

How do I get more information about the Precipice fire?

A daily Coastal Wildfire Bulletin with information on the size and location of the fire is available on the CCRD website under Emergency Notices and under Public Notices. A hardcopy of the bulletin can also be found at the main entrance of the Nuxalk Administration office and at the local post offices, groceries stores, and downtown restaurants.

How do I get information about the status of wildfires?

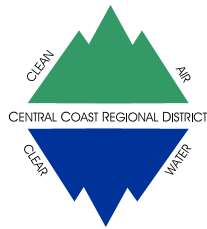
For Current Wildfire Information, please check the BC Wildfire website, Facebook and telephone line. BCWildfire.ca Wildfire of Note page has the latest fire information
1 888 281-2992 Wildfire Phone line (recorded) has fire information
BCForestFireInfo BC Wildfire Service's Facebook page

Road Transportation

Who do I contact for road closure and permit information?

Drive BC has updated information about road closures, major events and transportation delays including updates for [Highway 20 and 97](#). As of July 27th Drive BC reports that highway 20 is only open for traffic going eastbound. For security reasons it is closed to traffic going westbound - unless the vehicle is an emergency vehicle, first responder, or has essential services (i.e. food supplies) - at the Sheep Creek/Chilcotin Bridge 25 km west of Williams Lake to 5km west of Alexis Creek. Please visit www.drivebc.ca or call 1-800-550-4997 for the most up to date information.

At this time, the Cariboo Regional District Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) may issue permits on a case by case basis to people travelling westbound to a final destination that is not under an evacuation alert or order. The Cariboo Regional District Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has the most up to date information on travel routes as relates to permit and check points for those seeking to travel on Highway 97 and westbound on Highway 20 and to reach their home community. Please contact the Cariboo Regional District Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) public information phone number at 1-866-759-4977 as close to your desired travel time as you can (the day of or the day before) as the status of the highway may change quickly.



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Who should I contact about transportation on BC Ferries?

[BC Ferries](#) is providing complimentary prearranged travel support to people evacuating from the wildfires in the BC Interior provided travelers phone in advance to make arrangements.

Please call BC Ferries at 1 888 BCFERRY (1 888 223-3779) to discuss travel.

Support Services

What support services are available for people who have not been able to return home?

For residents who cannot get home as a result of the wildfires, there may be financial support through Emergency Social Services (ESS) to help with groceries and billeting. Contact the ESS in the community where you are currently located to ask about getting assistance. You can call the provincial number at 1-800-585-9559 to find contact information for the closest ESS.

What supports services are available for people who are stranded in the Bella Coola Valley and have not been able to return home?

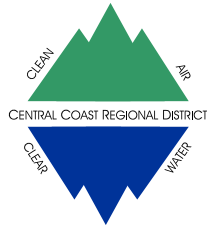
The local Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) and Emergency Social Services (ESS) are currently being housed at the CCRD office in Bella Coola (626 Cliff Street) from Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 4 pm. If you are in the Bella Coola Valley and have not been able to return home because of the wildfires, you can come to the office or call 250-799-5291 to learn more about the financial supports that may be available to help with groceries and billeting.

The Community Support Society provides a range of emotional and mental health and wellness supports, and is currently able to offer emergency clothing to those in need, and who are unable to return to their home. The Community Support Society can be reached at 250-799-5588.

Can I access support through the Red Cross?

Red Cross support is available for registered evacuees. If you are an evacuee, you can register with the Red Cross and learn more about the financial supports available.

Evacuees can register with the Red Cross by calling 1-800-863-6582. More information is available at www.redcross.ca.



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Postal Service

What is happening with postal service?

There has been disruptions in the mail service due to the current forest fire situation which has affected Canada Post transportation using roads and highways.

Thank you to the great work of MLA Jennifer Rice, CCRD Chair Alison Sayers, local Canada Post staff, and all the members of the community who made phone calls, the postal service situation is being addressed. The first flight with mail landed into Bella Coola July 24th with Federal Government cheques and select other products for residents of Bella Coola and Hagensborg. Mail is being sorted and made available for pick up by residents.

For more information on when regular postal service will resume, please contact Canada Post's customer service line at 1-800-267-1177.