

August 18, 2018



WILDFIRE UPDATE

VA1964-Dean River

(VA1964): Dean River - north of Highway 20 in the Mount Collins/Tanya Mountain area
25,536 hectares

This lightning-caused wildfire originated in an area of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park that has a fire management plan in place that includes allowing wildfires to burn within natural identified boundaries. This response type falls into the 'modified response' category. Recent growth of this wildfire has been towards the north and east.

In the east, this wildfire has exited Tweedsmuir Provincial Park and burned into the Cariboo Fire Centre. Locations for the establishment of contingency lines were identified as part of the fire analysis planning that is routinely conducted for modified response fires, should they grow beyond pre-determined boundaries (as this wildfire has towards the east). Crews and heavy equipment will work to establish contingency lines on the eastern flank of this fire within the Cariboo Fire Centre. In addition, three firefighters are working to remove flammable debris from around structures and to set up structural protection on structures in the area. An evacuation order and alert is in place within the Cariboo Regional District to protect public safety in areas north and east of the fire. For more information, visit www.cariboord.bc.ca.

Until recently, wind in the area where this wildfire is burning has been coming mainly from the west. Today and for the next few days, wind is expected to come from a north/north-easterly direction. Smoke from fires in the interior, including this wildfire, is expected to travel to coastal regions. People living in the Bella Coola Valley should expect to see increases in smoke in their area over the coming days. Wind speeds are generally expected to be highest in the mornings and to weaken in the afternoons. Winds in the Bella Coola region are expected to be strongest on Monday morning, when speeds of 15-25 km/h and gusts to 30 km/h are expected. Winds are expected to weaken on Monday afternoon and be lighter on both Tuesday and Wednesday.

Because winds are expected to blow from the north/northeast, this wildfire may begin to burn into itself or burn into new fuel in a southerly or southwesterly direction. The BC Wildfire Service is actively assessing these areas from the air and has been in touch with local agencies, including local government and lodge owners in remote areas. The BC Wildfire Service's priorities include protecting life, property and critical infrastructure/transportation routes, including highways.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cariboo Fire Centre Information Officers | 778-799-2100 | CARINFO@gov.bc.ca
Coastal Fire Centre Information Officers | 250-951-4209 | BCWS.COFInformationOfficer@gov.bc.ca



www.bcwildfire.ca



BC Forest Fire Info



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Highway 20: According to the Central Coast Regional District and Cariboo Regional District websites as of 1 pm on August 18, there are no evacuation orders or alerts that include Highway 20.

Other wildfire information from the Cariboo Fire Centre: The Mayfield Lake wildfire is burning approximately 25 kilometres south of Williams Lake. It is estimated to be 300 hectares in size, is 100% guarded and considered to be 70% contained. The Cariboo Regional District recently decreased the evacuation alert area around this wildfire and Highway 20 is not within the current evacuation alert area for this wildfire.

Questions and Answers

Questions Regarding Evacuation Orders and Alerts in the Cariboo Regional District:

For information on Evacuation Orders and Alerts, please contact the Cariboo Regional District at <http://cariboord.bc.ca/> or call the Cariboo Regional District Emergency Information Line at: **1-866-759-4977**

Questions Regarding Roadways:

The public is encouraged to check DriveBC.ca for information regarding road blocks and access restrictions.

Recreation Trail and Campsite Closures:

For information on recreational campsite and trail closures go to: <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/> and <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/>

What about people with respiratory concerns who are having a hard time with smoke?

- Smoke concentrations will vary widely as winds, fire behaviour and temperatures change.
- Residents are advised to consider avoiding strenuous outdoor activities when smoke is present.
- For air quality conditions, visit: www.bcairquality.ca
- To track smoke in the area: <http://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/viewer/run/ops/BSC-CA-01/current/>

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