
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Alastair Crick, Protective Services Manager
PHONE/EMAIL: 250-550-3731 / alastair.crick@rdno.ca

RDNO Encourages Fire Preparedness in the Region

The Regional District of North Okanagan encourages all North Okanagan residents, especially those in wildland urban interface areas, to be proactive in reducing risk in regards to the protection of private property.

With current fire danger ratings between 3 and 4 (maximum is 5), homeowners should be taking action to FireSmart their property against wildfires. Reduction in risk and loss will result from making smart decisions to reduce fuel loads on the premises and being prepared for the possibility of emergencies. Residents can download a “FireSmart Homeowner’s Manual” from the Government of British Columbia website that provides simple and preventative steps to reduce wildfire hazards.

“We are available to meet with neighborhoods and groups in the area to provide advice on what can be achieved, and methods to reduce the risk”, stated Alastair Crick, Manager of Protective Services. “PreparedBC” has a variety of resources available for everyone to be proactive in educating themselves.”

An interactive wildfire map is also available at www.BCWildfire.ca, allowing residents to view the location and details of active wildfires in the province as well as Fire Centre boundaries. The Regional District of North Okanagan falls within the Kamloops / Central fire zone.

The RDNO reminds residents that any open burns larger than a campfire are still prohibited in the region. A campfire burn is identified as half a metre wide by half a metre long by half a meter high. Authorities are currently in the process of determining if these fires are also hazardous.

For more information on wildfires, restrictions and fire preparedness strategies please visit www.gov.bc.ca. Residents can also receive instant updates on fire conditions by subscribing to the RDNO email list at www.rdno.ca/subscribe.

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