



All about area restrictions, evacuation orders and alerts, and where to go for information:

We've been getting questions about the difference between an area restriction implemented by the BC Wildfire Service and the evacuation orders and alerts that are implemented by local governments, typically regional districts. Visit the [BC Wildfire Service dashboard](#) to view our live map that includes current area restrictions and areas under evacuation order and alert. You may need to adjust the map layers in the upper right corner to view all the available information. The easiest way to understand the difference between area restrictions and evacuation orders/alerts is to think about the purpose of each.

Evacuation orders and alerts:

Local governments' concern is the residents within their areas. They work to ensure to safety of the public, which is exactly what evacuation orders and alerts are meant to do. Evacuation alerts let people know to prepare for an evacuation—to be ready to leave at a moment's notice if required for safety. Evacuation orders tell people it's time to leave because the situation is not safe.

[Prepared BC](#) has a useful guide available online to help people prepare for wildfires, including tips on dealing with smoky conditions and how to re-enter a property after an evacuation order is rescinded.

The BC Wildfire Service **does not** implement evacuation orders or alerts but it **does** make recommendations to local governments about whether one is necessary to ensure public safety. The BCWS incident commander—the person on site managing the response to the fire—is always monitoring fire activity and behaviour, weather and other factors with public safety in mind and, if they feel there is a risk, will recommend that local government implement an order or alert. Rescinding evacuation orders and alerts follows the same process. Sometimes an evacuation order may remain in effect after a wildfire has passed through an area due to hazards that remain, such as "danger trees," burnt trees that could fall unexpectedly, or damaged bridges and/or roads.

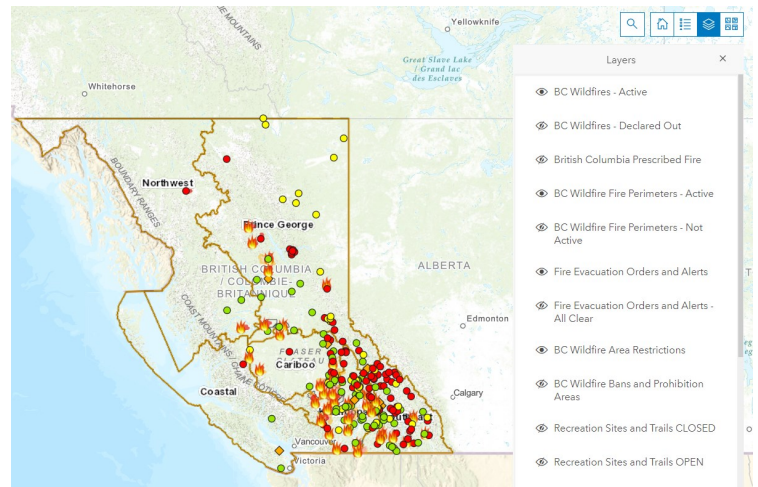
Questions about evacuation orders and alerts, or requests for special permission to enter an area with an evacuation order in effect, should be directed to local government. In the Southeast at present, the regional districts with evacuation orders or alerts in place are the [Regional District of Central Kootenay](#) and the [Regional District of East Kootenay](#). Both these local governments post current information online and have public phone lines you can call for information.

Regional District of Central Kootenay public line: 250-352-7701

Regional District of East Kootenay public line: 250-426-2188 or 1-855-346-2188

Area restrictions:

The BC Wildfire Service may restrict access to an area to protect public safety and/or avoid interference with fire suppression. These area restrictions are in effect for a specific area for a specified time period and, if conditions of the fire environment change to allow

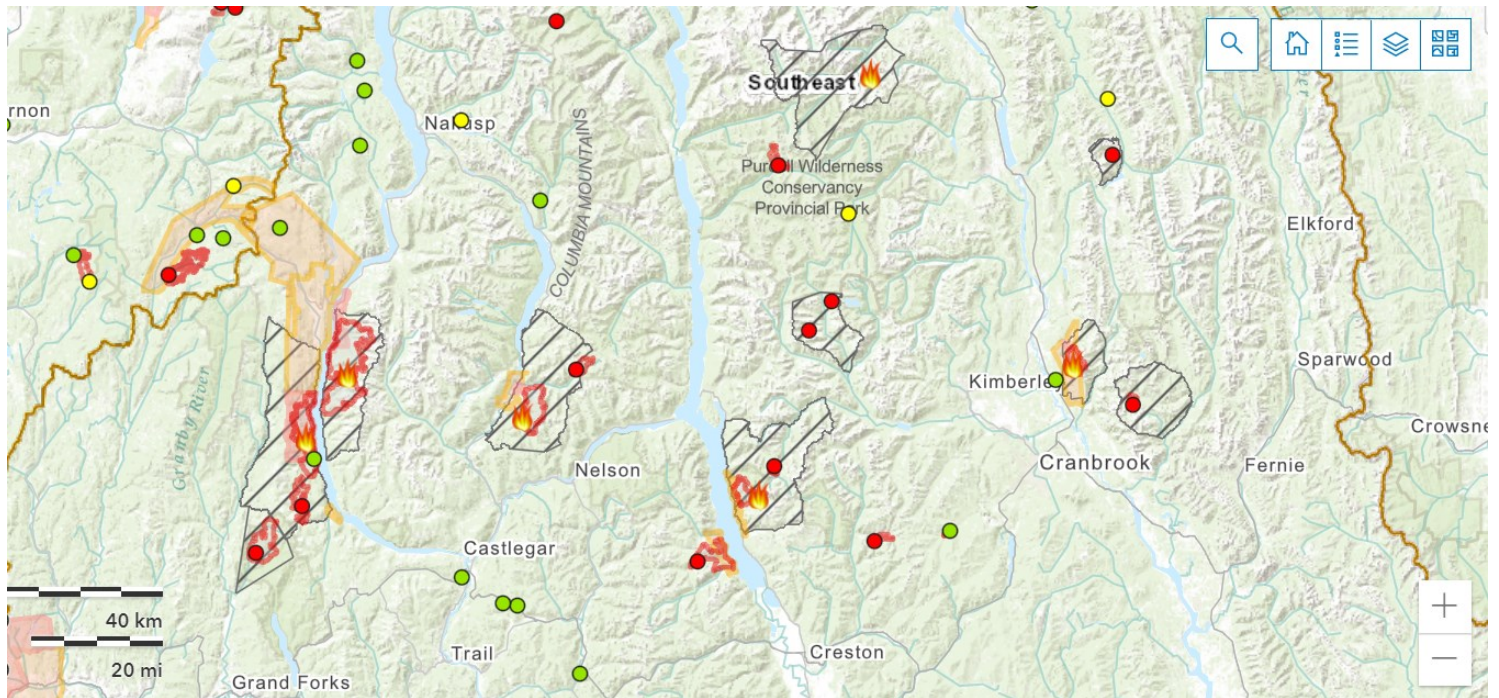


You can adjust the information visible on the BC Wildfire dashboard map using the layers function, which you open by clicking the icon in the upper right corner.

Spot a wildfire, smoke or illegal fire activity? Call 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on your cellphone.



WILDFIRE UPDATE



The [BC Wildfire Service dashboard map](#) shows areas under evacuation order, alert and area restrictions. The orange shaded areas are those under evacuation alert; the pink is areas under evacuation order and the dark grey diagonal stripes show the location of restricted areas.

it, may be lifted earlier. When this is the case, the BC Wildfire Service notifies affected parties and the public. We recognize that these restrictions often impact tourism and industrial activities and can be disruptive to people’s lives. As such, area restrictions are only applied after serious consideration.

While details may vary based on local conditions, typically an area restriction will stipulate that people must not remain in or enter the restricted area unless the person:

- 1) enters the area only in the course of:
 - a) travelling to or from their principle residence that is not under an evacuation order,
 - b) using a highway as defined in the Transportation Act,
 - c) travelling as a person acting in an official capacity as defined in s.56 of the Wildfire Act, or
 - d) travelling for the purpose of supporting wildfire suppression or enforcement patrol activities.
- 2) first receives written authorization of an official designated for the purposes of the Wildfire Act.

Officials consider granting these written authorizations, or exemptions, on a case-by-case basis. They are primarily for emergent works for infrastructure or necessary access. Exemptions are not granted for recreation or vacation purposes, or to people who wish to visit friends or family at primary residences within the restricted area.

People within the Southeast Fire Centre wishing to apply for authorization to enter a restricted area may phone 250-318-7715 or email bcws.sefcinformationofficer@gov.bc.ca

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HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- View an interactive map by clicking [here](#) or visiting <http://ow.ly/uo2U30oXqzS>
- **Road Closures:** DriveBC | dial 1-800-550-4997 | <https://www.drivebc.ca/>
- **Drifting Smoke:** www.bcairquality.ca/bluesky/west/index.html
- **Smoke Health Concerns:** HealthLink BC | dial 8-1-1 | www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp
- For info on **Community Support Services**, click [here](#) or visit <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

BC Wildfire Service	Emergency Management BC	Local municipalities and regional districts	First Nations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BCWS’s jurisdiction covers all BC Parks, Crown and private lands, but does not include the boundaries of local governments that have forest fire prevention bylaws and are serviced by a fire department. - BCWS speaks directly about wildfires (i.e. fire status, operations, etc.) and is responsible for disseminating wildfire updates to local governments, stakeholders, First Nations and the public. - BCWS does <u>not</u> announce Strategic Evacuation Orders or Alerts. - BCWS <u>does</u> announce Tactical Evacuations. - In the event of an imminent threat to public safety, BCWS can authorize an immediate Tactical Evacuation of the affected area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EMBC coordinates communication across all agencies and stakeholders to support communities. - EMBC provides advice to evacuees and support to communities regarding Emergency Operations Centres and Emergency Support Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts speak directly about Strategic Evacuation Orders and Alerts in their respective jurisdictions. - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts <u>do not</u> speak about the status of a wildfire unless the fire occurs within their jurisdiction. For example, if a wildfire <u>starts</u> within the boundaries of a local government, BCWS will often assist the local fire department with suppression efforts. If the fire spreads into Crown land to become a wildfire, BCWS will often assume control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On IR lands, Evacuation Orders and Alerts are implemented by a Band Council Resolution or other. - A designated person(s) from the respective First Nations community will speak to Evacuation Orders and Alerts on IR lands.

ACCESSING INFORMATION

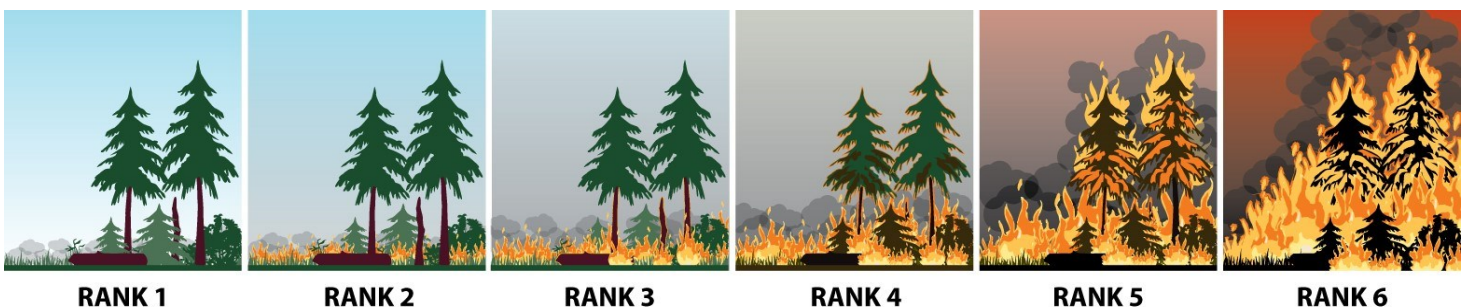
BC Wildfire Service Online Communications	EmergencyInfoBC EMBC Online Communications	PreparednessBC EMBC Online Communications
 @BCGovFireInfo	 @EmergencyInfoBC	 @PreparedBC
 www.bcwildfire.ca	 www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca	 www.gov.bc.ca/preparedBC
 BC Wildfire Service	 BCWS Mobile App	PreparedBC

FIRE STAGES OF CONTROL:

Out of Control	Describes a wildfire that is not responding (or only responding on a limited basis) to suppression action, such that the perimeter spread is not being contained.
Being Held	Indicates that (with the resources currently committed to the fire) sufficient suppression action has been taken that the fire is not likely to spread beyond existing or predetermined boundaries under the prevailing and forecasted conditions.
Under Control	The fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.

WILDFIRE RANKS:

Rank	Description
1	<p>Characteristics: Smouldering ground fire, no open flame, white smoke, slow (i.e. creeping) rate of fire spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools and water delivery systems (i.e. pumps and hose).</p>
2	<p>Characteristics: Surface fire, visible, open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front, slow rate of spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools, water delivery systems, or heavy equipment. Hand constructed control lines and lines that have been cleared of combustible material will likely be successful.</p>
3	<p>Characteristics: Organised flame front – fire progressing in organised manner, occasional candling may be observed along the perimeter and/or within the fire, moderate rate of spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Hand constructed control lines alone are likely to be challenged, ground crews conducting direct attack may require air support from fixed-wing air tankers, skimmers or helicopters conducting bucketing or tanking operations. Control lines constructed by heavy equipment will generally be effective</p>
4	<p>Characteristics: Grey to black smoke, organised surface flame front, moderate to fast rate of spread on the ground, short aerial bursts through the forest canopy, short-range spotting.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Ground operations may not be successful at the head of the fire, indirect tactics may be required to bring the head of the fire under control. Parallel attack may be used along the flanks of the fire to direct the head into favourable ground or fuels. Air operations may be required to support ground personnel.</p>
5	<p>Characteristics: Black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and spot fire growth.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: The limited options available include indirect attack and planned ignitions to remove fuel in the path of this type of fire behaviour. Ground operations are often restricted to fighting the least active sections of the fire or conducting ground ignition operations from secure control lines with readily available escape routes and safety zones.</p>
6	<p>Characteristics: Organised crown fire front, long-range spotting and independent spot fire growth, possible fireballs and whirls, violent fire behaviour probable, a dominant smoke column may develop which influences fire behaviour.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Firefighting under these conditions is extremely dangerous. Suppression efforts will be well away from active fire behaviour and may include preparing structure protection measures or conducting indirect large-scale ignition operations in an attempt to steer the fire. Often, the safest and most prudent strategy is to pull resources back to safe areas, ensure that personnel and the general public are safe, and wait for fire behaviour to lessen before re-engaging in fire suppression operations.</p>



RANK 1

RANK 2

RANK 3

RANK 4

RANK 5

RANK 6