



BRFN Emergency Operations update May 23rd 2023

Attention: Local Members Of Blueberry River First Nations-Evacuees

RE: Stoddart Creek Fire update

BRFN Emergency Operations update for May 23rd 2023

BRFN community is still under evacuation order at this time. Although the threat the Stoddart fire created has been reduced, there is remaining work to be done to remove the protection equipment from community prior to allowing members to return to a safe environment.

Smoke may impact air quality in both Fort St John as well as BRFN community over the next 3 days from time to time for short periods, but for the most part smoke movement models show acceptable levels.

Beaton River Airport Road closure is in effect due to wash-outs currently, the 272 road (South access) to BRFN community is also closed due to multiple washouts along that road as well. Prespatou through to Buick will be the only access at this time. Please do not try to access these roadways at this time.

Prior to lifting the evacuation order all temporary protection infrastructure our emergency teams had constructed within community will need to be taken down and removed. Over the next 48 hours will have crews working diligently to dismantle equipment that will allow for a safe return of members. Crews from all agencies will be dismantling the infrastructure during this time and they will be needing unrestricted access to all roads and properties in order to complete this task safely and as quickly as possible.

Although we fully understand everyone is very anxious to return home, and we are working as quickly as we can to make this happen in a safe and respectable manner for everyone involved. We ask for your patience at this time and Emergency Operations is requesting BRFN member cooperation to allow the emergency crews working in community time to gather equipment and gear, leave community, and return to base.

BRFN Emergency Operations Team expect a return to community on the morning of Friday, May 26th. If the emergency crews working in community are successful and can wrap up sooner than estimated, we may lift the evacuation order and allow members to even return sooner. The safety of the BRFN members as well as the emergency crews we have in community are our first priority. We will be receiving updates throughout each day and will update with any progress that comes in to our Emergency Operation Center.

Please stay up to date with the BRFN updates that will be coming in and posted throughout the next few days.

Chief and Council

Matthew Dodwell, Director Emergency Operations Center

Emergency Response Coordinator, BRFN

250-224-9248

