



Stoddart Creek May 19th 2023

Attention: Local Community Member Evacuees from Blueberry River First Nations

RE: Stoddart Creek Fire update

Here is a brief update of the Stoddart Creek fire.

On the fire guard we currently we have 4 dozers, 2 track hoes, a buncher, and a skidder. Fire Guard is essentially complete with just minor touches being performed for the rest of the day. We will maintain 2 dozers here until we have lifted the evacuation order and fire is fully under control. # pieces of Iron 2 dozers (BRFN's) and a Hoe will be moved to community for added support if and when needed. Very well constructed and will help with fire threat for years to come.

We have structural protection specialists performing function testes on all sprinkler systems to ensure integrity in the event we need them activated. All homes within BRFN community have sprinkler systems installed. We currently have 34 structural firefighters on site. We have 5 structure fire trucks on site which stay for a 12-hour day until the situation escalates. Site is being monitored 24/7 by BRFN EOC staff. Yesterday we had a crew of 14 in our mitigation team led by the mitigation expert from our support group FNESS. Today our mitigation team consists of 10 individuals. Mitigation Team had completed 15 homes between the T intersection and School thus far. We hope to have another 10 or so done today and will continue through the weekend. Excellent progress is being made.

The Stoddart Creek fire is currently at 25000 hectares which has expanded since yesterday. BC Wildfire team had to fight a fire that had crossed the river to the west of the community and was essentially contained before it reached beyond the 300 hectares. The Stoddart currently has 160 men on the ground during the day and 48 during the night. We have 20 helicopters on this one today. Slight winds today moving in southerly direction will help us in many ways. Aircraft is currently grounded due to visibility issues. Winds pushing southwards are expected to continue for the next 48 hours. Some rain is listed as a possibility but Environment Canada is still unsure if this will make landfall within the Stoddart Creek fire zone.

Air quality is expected to be very poor over the next 48 – 72 hours and under Chief Desjarlais instruction we have sourced out industrial air scrubbers to support this in need and to help maintain a workable EOC that will continue to provide support service during this critical time. We expect by morning we will have purified air within this facility here at EOC for all individuals to utilize if they need or decide to do so.

Chief & Council

Matthew Dodwell, Director Emergency Operations Center

Emergency Response Coordinator, BRFN

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