

OVERVIEW

PURPOSE:

- The Ministry of Health wildfire situation report provides consolidated information on health system impacts and response for Ministry executive and partners
- To ensure situational awareness across the provincial health system response structure, situation reports will be produced daily by the Emergency Management Unit

DATE ISSUED: Saturday, July 3, 2021

PREPARED BY: MoH EMU

REPORTING PERIOD: Information current as of 1700hrs on Friday, July 2, 2021

NEXT REPORT: Monday, July 5, 2021

HECC ACTIVATION LEVEL: 1

NOTE:

Given the dynamic nature of the provincial wildfire situation, the following information is subject to change after this report is distributed. Any significant developments will be communicated sooner as necessary. **Key information is provided in red.**

SITUATION REPORT SECTIONS:

HIGHLIGHTS	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PROVINCIAL SITUATION SUMMARY• SIGNIFICANT HEALTH SYSTEM IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HEALTH AUTHORITY SUMMARIES

PROVINCIAL HEALTH SYSTEM CONTACTS:

- Emergency inquiries impacting the BC Provincial Health System can be directed to the 24/7 Provincial Health Duty Officer (PHDO):
 - Health.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca
s.15(1)(l)
- The following individuals are providing provincial level coordination:
 - John Lavery, Executive Director Health Emergency Management BC
John.lavery@phsa.ca
 - Jamie Galt, A/Director Emergency Management Unit
Jamiegalt@gov.bc.ca
s.15(1)(l)

SITREP APPROVED BY:

Jamie Galt
A/Director Emergency Management Unit
Ministry of Health

0930, 3 July 2021

PROVINCIAL WILDFIRE SITUATION

PROVINCIAL SITUATION SUMMARY:

- Wildfire situation continues to deteriorate across the province with significant growth of new fires in last 24 hours.
- Unstable atmosphere following the heatwave has resulted in unpredictable weather, thunderstorms, flash floods, landslides, and a tornado.
- EMBC in discussions for additional support from federal government

PROVINCIAL IMPACTS

- Hotel rooms are at capacity in Kamloops, Merritt requiring evacuees to travel further
- BC Coroners Service with assistance from RCMP will enter Lytton today
- Sections of Hwy 1, Hwy 12, closed due to wildfires

FIRE/WEATHER UPDATE:

- Today and tomorrow:** Scattered showers and partial clouds over most of the province, with temperatures remaining above 30 degrees throughout much of the interior. Thunderstorm risks remain pronounced in the northeast and southeast regions of the province.
- Day + 3 to Day +4** Gusty winds and partial could cover are expected for most of the provide, with localized thunderstorms.

AIR QUALITY REPORT:

- Smoky Sky Bulletin issued for multiple parts of the province: northeast and central regions

* For more information on Air Quality see [Smoky Skies Bulletin – July 2, 2021](#)

Quick Facts – Provincial Wildfire Situation

Active fires: 177

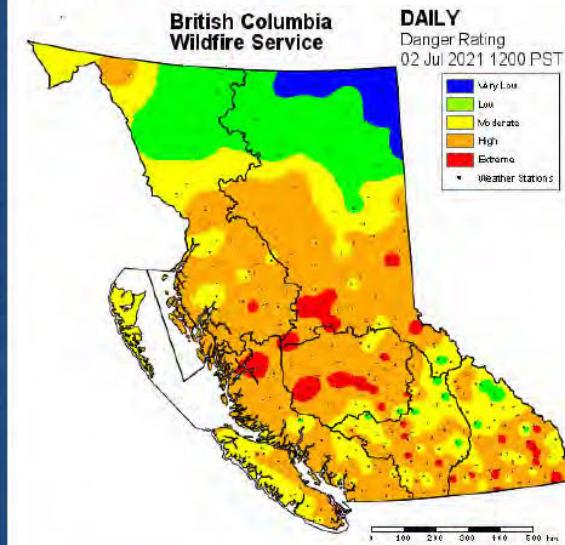
New fires in the last 24hrs: 76 (↑30)

Fires of Note: 7

**Total individuals (under Evacuation Order):
1,523 (↓441)**

**Total individuals (under Evacuation Alert):
1,229 (↑524)**

Reception Centres: 5



SIGNIFICANT HEALTH SYSTEM IMPACTS

Interior Health

- s.22(1) patients were relocated from west-pavilion to Kamloops. Planning underway for the remaining s.22(1)
- Community care lists under review to ensure all clients within evacuation order and alert areas are identified. Coordination with ESS ongoing.
- Total loss of Lytton facility confirmed.

BCEHS

- Despite reduction in extreme heat, call volumes remain higher than normal.
- Staffing issues persist, with significant shift vacancies in both patient care and dispatch.
- Interior and Northern DEOCs now coordinating response activities for their regions.

HEALTH AUTHORITY SUMMARY:

NOTE: Currently receiving SITREPS from the following. Northern Health, Interior Health, and BCEHS. Updates from other health system organizations are being provided through HEMBC network

Interior Health Authority (as of July 2, 2021 SITREP)

Impacts:

- Evacuation orders and Alerts impacting LTC and home health clients ongoing in West Pavilion, Sparks Lake area, Lytton Creek, Deka Lake, and Castlegar.
- s.22(1) clients were evacuated from the Deka Lake region.
- Castlegar Health Centre is providing reduced services (ED only) until further notice.
- Confirmed loss of all IH facilities in Lytton.

Mitigations:

- s.22(1) clients from the west Pavilion area have been moved to Ponderosa in Kamloops.
 - Remaining s.22(1) clients are ambulatory and can be transported more easily if situation deteriorates.
- Actively working with ESS reception centres and provincial staff to ensure home health clients are identified and have needs met.
- s.22(1) patients in the Castlegar regions were transferred to KBRH.
- Health authority EOC activated
- Decision made July 1 to proactively evacuate LTC and P3 sites in southern Castlegar
 - 60 residents from Talarico Place LTC
 - 50 residents from Castleview
- Assisted living patients moved from Lytton: s.22(1)

IH requests for support from HECC or other provincial agencies

Date	Request
July 1, 2021	No requests at this time

Click or tap to enter a date.

Northern Health Authority (as of July 2, 2021 SITREP)

Impacts:

- Some McBride Hospital staff have been impacted by flooding events in the area.
- Several wildfires in region may impact communities in future.

Mitigations:

- Executive leadership EOC has been activated
- Fort St. John hospital EOC is activated.
- Communications with communities near wildfires is underway.

NHA requests for support from HECC or other provincial agencies

Date	Request

July 1, 2021	No requests at this time
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BCEHS (as of July 2, 2021 SITREP)

Impacts:

- Both call and event volumes have however with COVID restrictions easing and it being a holiday weekend with nice weather (and still very hot in some parts of the province), they remain higher than normal.
- Shift vacancies across the province in both dispatch and patient care remain an issue, as staffing has not recovered from impacts of heatwave, and call/incident numbers remain above normal.
- Assisting Interior Health with pre-emptive patient transfers.
- Closures to hwy 1, hwy 12, continue to cause issues.
- Threats to hwy 99 north of Lillooet and hwy 24 are both concerns.
- Loss of ambulance station and one ambulance in Lytton.

Mitigations:

- Discussions underway to find both short and long term replacements for Lytton facilities.
- DEOC activated for Interior Region.
- DEOC activated for Northern Region.
- Resource planning for the Sea to Sky corridor is underway in anticipation of potential wildfire impacts in the Lillooet area. Lillooet Hospital is currently pre-emptively evacuating patients.

PHSA requests for support from HECC or other provincial agencies	
Date	Request
July 1, 2021	No requests at this time

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Ministry of Health*

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FIRE/WEATHER UPDATE:

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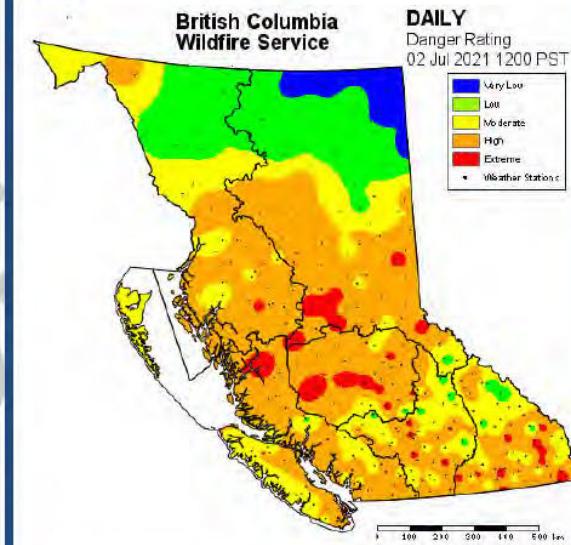
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- Loss of ambulance station and one ambulance in Lytton.

Mitigations:

- Discussions underway to find both short and long term replacements for Lytton facilities.
- DEOC activated for Interior Region.
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PHSA requests for support from HECC or other provincial agencies	
Date	Request
July 1, 2021	No requests at this time

From: [Lavery, John \[PHSA\]](#)
To: [Byres, David \[PHSA\]](#); [Flatt, Alexandra \[PHSA\]](#); [Dawkins, Laurie \[PHSA\]](#); [Wilson, Donna \[PHSA\]](#)
Subject: FW: Health System Wildfire Situation Report #04
Date: Monday, July 05, 2021 10:01:32 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[HECC_SITREP_04_WILDFIRE2021.docx](#)
[HECC_SITREP_04_WILDFIRE2021.pdf](#)

FYI – today's provincial wildfire situation report.

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority
Cell: [s.15\(1\)\(l\)](#)

From: Galt, Jamie HLTH:EX <Jamie.Galt@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 05, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Massey, Keren L HLTH:EX <Keren.Massey@gov.bc.ca>; Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Romanas, Amy [PHSA] <amy.roman@phsa.ca>; Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>; Teri.Collins@gov.bc.ca [EXT] <Teri.Collins@gov.bc.ca>; Lawson, Danika [VIHA] <Danika.Lawson@viha.ca>; Hutton, David [PHSA] <david.hutton@phsa.ca>; EMBC PECC Director 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.dir1@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.ops1@gov.bc.ca>; Fisher, Kiersten D HLTH:EX <Kiersten.Fisher@gov.bc.ca>; Delorme, Gerry [PHSA] <Gerry.Delorme@phsa.ca>; Guerrero, Thomas HLTH:EX <Thomas.Guerrero@gov.bc.ca>; Hayward, Ross HLTH:EX <Ross.Hayward@gov.bc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie [EXT] [s.19\(1\)](#) ; [hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca](#) [EXT] <hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; 'jodie.millward@fnha.ca' <jodie.millward@fnha.ca>; Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>; Lavoie, Martin <Martin.Lavoie@gov.bc.ca>; Phillips, Mark [VCH] <Mark.Phillips@vch.ca>; Charters, Mary [NHA] <Mary.Charters@northernhealth.ca>; Pokorny, Peter HLTH:EX <Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca>; rains, derek [GOV] <derek.rains@gov.bc.ca>; Ian.Rongve@gov.bc.ca [Ext] <Ian.Rongve@gov.bc.ca>; Kuhn, Ryan [IHA] <Ryan.Kuhn@interiorhealth.ca>; Therrien, Darlene [EXT] <Darlene.Therrien@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>; Youngs, Kirsten [EXT] <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>; 'Heron, Victoria (PHAC/ASPC)' <Victoria.Heron@canada.ca>; HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>; Catherine.patterson@gov.bc.ca; Hrycuik, Lorie [EXT] <Lorie.Hrycuik@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Planning 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.pln1@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Emergency Preparedness Staff <hlthemergprep@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Health System Wildfire Situation Report #04

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and **do not** open attachments or click on links.

Good morning,

Please find attached the Health System Wildfire Situation Report #04. For ease, I have taken a screen shot of major impacts from page 2 of the document and pasted below:

Wildfire 2021
Situation Report #4
Health Emergency Coordination Centre
Ministry of Health

HEMC Health Emergency
Management

PROVINCIAL WILDFIRE SITUATION

PROVINCIAL SITUATION SUMMARY:

- Wildfire situation continues to deteriorate across the province with significant growth of new fires in last 24 hours.
- Widespread showers and thunderstorms across the Interior, with flooding risks persisting in the Chilcotin and upper Fraser regions.
- EMBC in discussions for additional support from federal government

PROVINCIAL IMPACTS

- Hotel rooms are at capacity in Kamloops, Merritt requiring evacuees to travel further
- Disaster Psychosocial Support team assisting evacuees in Kamloops and other communities.
- Out of Province resources arriving today
- Sections of Hwy 1, Hwy 12, closed due to wildfires

FIRE/WEATHER UPDATE:

- Today and tomorrow: cloudy skies to start the morning with isolated showers across the Chilcotin, Central-Cariboo, 100 Mile, Kamloops, Lillooet and Merritt areas. Widespread thunderstorms across are expected today across the interior, and some coastal areas. Strong winds and hail expected for the southeast region.
- Day + 3 to Day +4 Gusty winds and partial cloud cover are expected for most of the province, with localized thunderstorms.

AIR QUALITY REPORT:

- Smoky Sky Bulletin issued for multiple parts of the province: northeast and central regions

* For more information on Air Quality see [Smoky Skies Bulletin – July 2, 2021](#)

SIGNIFICANT HEALTH SYSTEM IMPACTS

Interior Health

- Repatriation of patients to Castlegar LTCs has begun, as evacuation orders and alerts rescinded.
- Meetings underway with PHSA to discuss the possible deployment of the Mobile Medical Unit, as well as a 40-bed Deployable Alternate Care Site.

BCEHS

- Mitigation efforts underway to prepare for impacts of wildfire smoke.

The Ministry of Health has a liaison officer deployed to the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC). That individual can be contacted by calling **s.15(1)(l)**.

Next SITREP will be distributed Tuesday 6 July 2021. (Note only abbreviated bullets were provided for Sunday 4, July). Urgent bullets or information will be shared throughout the day as required.

Please let me know if you would like additional individuals added to the SITREP or if you would like to stop receiving these emails.

Any questions can be directed to myself.

Thank you,

Jamie Galt, CD, MA

A/Director

Emergency Management Unit

COVID Response & Health Emergency Management

Ministry of Health

Office: (778) 698-5823

Cell: **s.15(1)(l)**

PO Box 9639 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9P1



If this is an emergency impacting the provincial health system, please contact our 24/7 Duty Officer at **s.15(1)(l)** or hith.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

I respectfully acknowledge the unceded territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEC peoples'.



Wildfire 2021
Situation Report #4
Health Emergency Coordination Centre
Ministry of Health

HEMBC
Health Emergency Management

OVERVIEW

PURPOSE:

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PREPARED BY: MoH EMU

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NEXT REPORT: **Tuesday, July 6, 2021**

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s.15(1)(l)

SITREP APPROVED BY:

Jamie Galt
A/Director Emergency Management Unit
Ministry of Health

0930, 5 July 2021

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SIGNIFICANT HEALTH SYSTEM IMPACTS

Interior Health

- Repatriation of patients to Castlegar LTCs has begun, as evacuation orders and alerts rescinded.
- Meetings underway with PHSA to discuss the possible deployment of the Mobile Medical Unit, as well as a 40-bed Deployable Alternate Care Site.

BCEHS

- Mitigation efforts underway to prepare for impacts of wildfire smoke.

Quick Facts – Provincial Wildfire Situation

Active fires: 196 (↑19)

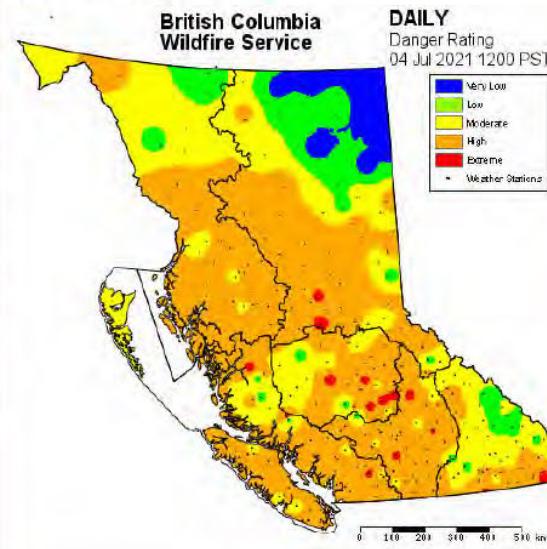
New fires in the last 24hrs: 40

Interface Fires: 11 (↑4)

**Total individuals (under Evacuation Order):
1,433 (↓90)**

**Total individuals (under Evacuation Alert):
1,229 (↑17)**

Reception Centres: 7



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Impacts:

- Evacuation orders and Alerts impacting LTC and home health clients ongoing in West Pavilion, Sparks Lake area, Lytton Creek, Deka Lake, and Castlegar.
- Staffing availability, due to high volume of work and potential direct impacts of evacuations identified as greatest risk to operations.
- Castlegar Health Centre is providing reduced services (ED only) until further notice.
- Confirmed loss of all IH facilities in Lytton.

Mitigations:

- Repatriation of patients to Castlegar LTCs has begun, as evacuation orders and alerts rescinded.
- Meetings underway with PHSA to discuss the possible deployment of the Mobile Medical Unit, as well as a 40-bed Deployable Alternate Care Site.
- [REDACTED] clients from the west Pavilion area have been moved to Ponderosa in Kamloops.
 - Remaining [REDACTED] clients are ambulatory and can be transported more easily if situation deteriorates.
- Actively working with ESS reception centres and provincial staff to ensure home health clients are identified and have needs met.
- [REDACTED] patients in the Castlegar regions were transferred to KBRH.
- Health authority EOC activated
- Assisted living patients moved from Lytton [REDACTED]

IH requests for support from HECC or other provincial agencies

Date	Request
July 5, 2021	No requests at this time

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Mitigations:

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NHA requests for support from HECC or other provincial agencies



Wildfire 2021
Situation Report #4
Health Emergency Coordination Centre
Ministry of Health



Date	Request
July 1, 2021	No requests at this time

BCEHS (as of July 4, 2021 SITREP)

Impacts:

- The Air Quality Health Index in Kamloops and surrounding area for most of today was a 10 (HIGH) and is expected to be similar tomorrow.
- Assisting Interior Health with pre-emptive patient transfers.
- Closures to hwy 1, hwy 12, continue to cause issues.
- Threats to hwy 99 north of Lillooet and hwy 24 are both concerns.
- Both call and event volumes have lowered however with COVID restrictions easing and it being a holiday weekend with nice weather (and still very hot in some parts of the province), they remain higher than normal.
- Shift vacancies across the province in both dispatch and patient care remain an issue, as staffing has not recovered from impacts of heatwave, and call/incident numbers remain above normal.
- Loss of ambulance station and one ambulance in Lytton.

Mitigations:

- DEOC to facilitate deployment of OV filters for the Elastomeric Half Mask Respirators in support of paramedics working in excessive smoky conditions.
- Clinical support working on secondary triage in Vancouver Dispatch is helping to ease the pressure.
- A station evacuation plan has been developed and communicated with all staff at the Lillooet station should evacuation be required.
- Discussions underway to find both short and long term replacements for Lytton facilities.
- DEOC activated for Interior Region.
- DEOC activated for Northern Region.
- Resource planning for the Sea to Sky corridor is underway in anticipation of potential wildfire impacts in the Lillooet area. Lillooet Hospital is currently pre-emptively evacuating patients.

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 - John Lavery, Executive Director Health Emergency Management BC
John.lavery@phsa.ca
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s.15(1)(l)

SITREP APPROVED BY:

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Ministry of Health

0930, 5 July 2021

PROVINCIAL WILDFIRE SITUATION

PROVINCIAL SITUATION SUMMARY:

- Wildfire situation continues to deteriorate across the province with significant growth of new fires in last 24 hours.
- Widespread showers and thunderstorms across the Interior, with flooding risks persisting in the Chilcotin and upper Fraser regions.
- EMBC in discussions for additional support from federal government

PROVINCIAL IMPACTS

- Hotel rooms are at capacity in Kamloops, Merritt requiring evacuees to travel further
- Disaster Psychosocial Support team assisting evacuees in Kamloops and other communities.
- Out of Province resources arriving today
- Sections of Hwy 1, Hwy 12, closed due to wildfires

FIRE/WEATHER UPDATE:

- **Today and tomorrow:** cloudy skies to start the morning with isolated showers across the Chilcotin, Central-Cariboo, 100 Mile, Kamloops, Lillooet and Merritt areas. Widespread thunderstorms across are expected today across the interior, and some coastal areas. Strong winds and hail expected for the southeast region.
- **Day + 3 to Day +4** Gusty winds and partial cloud cover are expected for most of the province, with localized thunderstorms.

AIR QUALITY REPORT:

- Smoky Sky Bulletin issued for multiple parts of the province: northeast and central regions

* For more information on Air Quality see [Smoky Skies Bulletin – July 2, 2021](#)

SIGNIFICANT HEALTH SYSTEM IMPACTS

Interior Health

- Repatriation of patients to Castlegar LTCs has begun, as evacuation orders and alerts rescinded.
- Meetings underway with PHSA to discuss the possible deployment of the Mobile Medical Unit, as well as a 40-bed Deployable Alternate Care Site.

BCEHS

- Mitigation efforts underway to prepare for impacts of wildfire smoke.

Quick Facts – Provincial Wildfire Situation

Active fires: 196 (↑19)

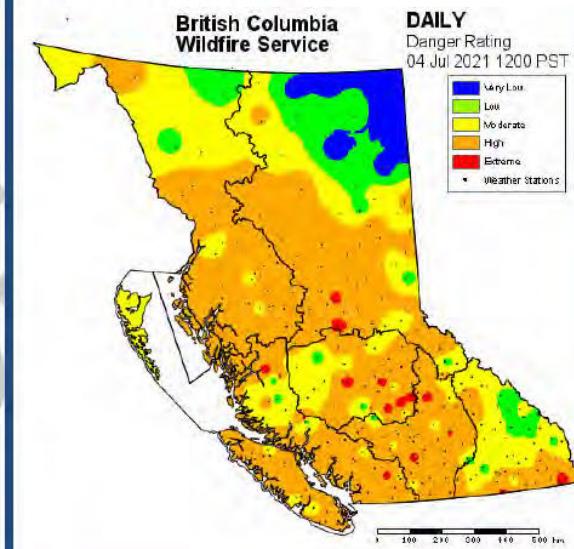
New fires in the last 24hrs: 40

Interface Fires: 11 (↑4)

**Total individuals (under Evacuation Order):
1,433 (↓90)**

**Total individuals (under Evacuation Alert):
1,229 (↑17)**

Reception Centres: 7



HEALTH AUTHORITY SUMMARY:

NOTE: Currently receiving SITREPS from the following. Northern Health, Interior Health, and BCEHS. Updates from other health system organizations are being provided through the HEMBC network

Interior Health Authority (as of July 4, 2021 SITREP)

Impacts:

- Evacuation orders and Alerts impacting LTC and home health clients ongoing in West Pavilion, Sparks Lake area, Lytton Creek, Deka Lake, and Castlegar.
- Staffing availability, due to high volume of work and potential direct impacts of evacuations identified as greatest risk to operations.
- Castlegar Health Centre is providing reduced services (ED only) until further notice.
- Confirmed loss of all IH facilities in Lytton.

Mitigations:

- Repatriation of patients to Castlegar LTCs has begun, as evacuation orders and alerts rescinded.
- Meetings underway with PHSA to discuss the possible deployment of the Mobile Medical Unit, as well as a 40-bed Deployable Alternate Care Site.
- **s.22(1)** clients from the west Pavilion area have been moved to Ponderosa in Kamloops.
 - Remaining **s.22(1)** clients are ambulatory and can be transported more easily if situation deteriorates.
- Actively working with ESS reception centres and provincial staff to ensure home health clients are identified and have needs met.
- **s.22(1)** patients in the Castlegar regions were transferred to KBRH.
- Health authority EOC activated
- Assisted living patients moved from Lytton: **s.22(1)**

IH requests for support from HECC or other provincial agencies

Date	Request
July 5, 2021	No requests at this time

Click or tap to enter a date.

Northern Health Authority (as of July 3, 2021 SITREP)

Impacts:

- Some McBride Hospital staff have been impacted by flooding events in the area.
- Several wildfires in region may impact communities in future.

Mitigations:

- Executive leadership EOC has been activated
- Fort St. John hospital EOC is activated.
- Communications with communities near wildfires is underway.

NHA requests for support from HECC or other provincial agencies

Date	Request
July 1, 2021	No requests at this time

BCEHS (as of July 4, 2021 SITREP)

Impacts:

- The Air Quality Health Index in Kamloops and surrounding area for most of today was a 10 (HIGH) and is expected to be similar tomorrow.
- Assisting Interior Health with pre-emptive patient transfers.
- Closures to hwy 1, hwy 12, continue to cause issues.
- Threats to hwy 99 north of Lillooet and hwy 24 are both concerns.
- Both call and event volumes have lowered however with COVID restrictions easing and it being a holiday weekend with nice weather (and still very hot in some parts of the province), they remain higher than normal.
- Shift vacancies across the province in both dispatch and patient care remain an issue, as staffing has not recovered from impacts of heatwave, and call/incident numbers remain above normal.
- Loss of ambulance station and one ambulance in Lytton.

Mitigations:

- DEOC to facilitate deployment of OV filters for the Elastomeric Half Mask Respirators in support of paramedics working in excessive smoky conditions.
- Clinical support working on secondary triage in Vancouver Dispatch is helping to ease the pressure.
- A station evacuation plan has been developed and communicated with all staff at the Lillooet station should evacuation be required.
- Discussions underway to find both short and long term replacements for Lytton facilities.
- DEOC activated for Interior Region.
- DEOC activated for Northern Region.
- Resource planning for the Sea to Sky corridor is underway in anticipation of potential wildfire impacts in the Lillooet area. Lillooet Hospital is currently pre-emptively evacuating patients.

PHSA requests for support from HECC or other provincial agencies	
Date	Request
July 5, 2021	No requests at this time

s.13(1), s.15(1)(l), s.17(1)