

First Nations Impacts Summary Report

DATE: Aug 03, 2022

NEW INFORMATION IN BLUE

HAZARDS: Freshet Conditions

- EMBC Regional Offices: 3 PREOCs activated: Central, SouthWest and [SouthEast](#). All others available and monitoring through duty manager access point.
- First Nation Agency Representatives (including ISC, FNESS, FNHA, and MIRR) participating as needed.

PROVINCIAL OVERVIEW:

Last weeks' heat wave brought temperatures 5-15 degrees above seasonal norms to much of the Province. The heat, plus an uptick in dry lightning saw many fires start and exacerbated fires already burning. Fires are now directly impacting three (3) First Nations, with numerous additional communities monitoring for potential impacts. During the heat warning, Friendship Centres and First Nation communities opened cooling centres and a representative from the Health Authority attended Central and SouthEast Coordination Calls to provide guidance and respond to questions. As a result of increased high-level melt during the heat, there was an increase or upgrade of river levels, however there are no reports of flood waters affecting communities at this time.

Wildfires affecting First Nations:

Nohomin: 3700+ hectares. Burning away from community. Impacting Lytton First Nation (alert). IMT in place

Maria Creek: 1000+ hectares. 6km NE of Pavilion.

Keremeos Creek: 2700+ hectares. Impacting Lower Similkameen (order), Penticton (alert), and Upper Similkameen (area restriction). IMT and Camp at Oliver Airport in place. Some road closures required at times.

Response Overview from Agencies:

- EMBC: Central PREOC hosting daily Coordination calls in response to Wildfire and Heat related impacts, with participation from BCWS, Health Authorities and other agencies. EMBC's other regional offices supporting communities with response to heat, recovery from earlier events.
- [BCWS: Actioning all fires as appropriate. IMT's in place for "wildfire of note" fires.](#)
- First Nations Emergency Support Society (FNESS) is supporting the response to the Nohomin and [Keremeos Creek](#) Fire by actioning FireSmart activities, working directly with BCWS and impacted First Nation, participating in EMBC Coordination calls, staffing the PREOCs.
- [First Nations Health Authority \(FNHA\) are supporting evacuees' mental and traditional wellness by staffing reception centres. FNHA is working in partnership with IHA to manage staff numbers and response fatigue.](#)
- MIRR acting as an agency representative in the PECC, participating in all coordination calls.

General Observations and Community Concerns:

- [Communities are expressing appreciation for the collaborative and inclusive efforts made in supporting the response.](#)
 - An uptick in COVID cases across the province is likely to be affecting First Nations communities as well.
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- The Papal visit in response to the Catholic Church's link to residential schools is likely to affect Indigenous communities across the Province and country. During previous events of this type, the Residential School Survivors support line reports an uptick in calls. FNHA mental wellness staff are prepared to support evacuees also dealing with this trauma.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS:

EMBC CENTRAL REGION: Central PREOC activated and hosting daily coordination calls. Dry lightning and high temps have caused an increase in fire starts. Campfire ban in effect as of August 4, 2022.			
First Nation	Access/ Orders/Alerts	Community Impacts and Requests	Province/Agency Updates and Actions Taken
Bonaparte		Monitoring Maria Creek Fire located 6km NE of Pavilion. Likely to be impacted by smoke due to wind direction. Preparing evacuation plans should they be required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCWS advises that an IMT is in place on this fire.
Coldwater Chief Lee Spahan 894 members 387 on reserve 506 off reserve	AR Event: SOLE	Recovery: Septic and Well water systems damaged during the AR Event are now being repaired, however the 2 households remain evacuated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Forests staff recommend that Coldwater monitor banks during heavy rain events.
Cook's Ferry Chief Christine Minnabarriet 346 members 52 on reserve 294 off reserve 3983 ha	AR Event: 1 SOLE, 2 Orders, 1 Alert	Response: 3 homes remain inaccessible due to loss of bridge, approx. 12-15 people affected. Recovery: Cook's Ferry are in recovery from 2021 fires and floods. Active in the Highway 8 repair work through cultural monitoring and debris management contracts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery: EMBC bi-weekly Recovery calls are currently paused.
Little Shuswap Chief A. James Tomma 367 members 239 on reserve 128 off reserve	1 Alert	Leasehold properties along the lake are at risk due to flooding. Risk is expected to be decreasing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMBC has reached out to the community and supports are being provided as needed.

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<p>Lower Similkameen</p>	<p>1 ORDER IR12 &12A (1 home)</p>	<p>Impacted by Keremeos Creek fire. LSIB issued an order on Aug 2: 1 resident, along with animals is sheltering-in-place. Sprinklers set up to protect structures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCWS is responding to the fire, and an IMT is established at Oliver Airport. • ESS type supports available from Penticton IB if needed.
<p>Lytton Chief Janet Webster</p>	<p>1 Alert (downgrade) (2022) 1 order (2021) 1 alert (2021)</p>	<p>Responding to Nohomin Fire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted town hall Aug 2 to share info with community. • All evacuees have returned home. • 8 structures lost, of which 5 are primary homes. Approximately 20+ people associated to these homes. Mental Health supports for those who have lost homes, and as part of re-entry planning. • Lytton First Nation is embedded in the BCWS IMT; LFN continuing to work to protect values of cultural importance within Nlaka’pamux Heritage/Stein Valley Park • LFN have completed RDA’s and Environmental assessments and are awaiting lab results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCWS IMT in place. 175 Firefighters. • FNESS Strike Teams carrying out FireSmart activities. • FNHA mental and traditional wellness supports in place. • Lillooet Friendship Centre provided meals in accordance with need. • Reception Centres Registered Evacuees: <i>(includes Indigenous and Non-Indigenous)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lillooet: 117 registered ○ Cache Creek: 53 • Donations Management occurring by LFN. • ISC arranging to provide status cards as needed. • BCHydro expect to have area re-energized afternoon, Jul 28.
<p>Nooaitch Chief Marcel Shackelly 235 members 104 on reserve 131 off reserve 1,693 ha</p>	<p>AR Event: 1 order, 1 alert</p>	<p>Response: Landslides in the area.</p> <p>Recovery: Nooaitch are working with ISC, EMBC, MOTI, ENV and other partners recovery related concerns including home replacements, erosion concerns and debris management. Nooaitch in partnership with the contractor have identified additional concerns due to recent landslides. A new scope of work is being worked through with ISC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMBC supporting this community as needed. • Geotechnical assessment arranged following landslide. • Ministries involved in the recovery efforts understand that Nooaitch would like broadscale flood plain mapping for the area, rather than specifically their reserve. • Noting the above, there is an additional call for a “Lands Table” to provide a proper forum for discussions with BC and Canada.
<p>Penticton Indian Band</p>	<p>1 ALERT (2 homes)</p>	<p>Impacted by Keremeos Creek Fire. Have implemented security along evacuation routes that go through reserve. Available to LSIB if supports are needed. Working in partnership with the regional district.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCWS have an IMT in place and are responding as appropriate.

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Shackan Chief Arnie Lampreau 133 members 73 on reserve 60 off reserve	AR Event: 1 Order	Recovery: 6 homes remain inaccessible, approx. 20 people. Temporary bridge is underway. MOTI contractor doing some prep work in the area. Evacuees are housed at CIVEO workcamp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministries working with Shackan note deep fatigue in the community and especially at the leadership level likely due to Long-term evacuations and separation from community. Recovery: Shackan are working directly with ISC replacement of a temporary bridge and considering a permanent solution. MOTI reports that most of the Hwy 8 road works in this area are done, with some paving to be complete in July.
Upper Similkameen		Monitoring Keremeos Creek Fire. Have implemented a road access restriction through the community to ensure no re-entry to the back side of Apex Mtn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCWS have an IMT and Camp established at Oliver Airport in response to the Keremeos Creek Fire.
EMBC SOUTHEAST REGION: PREEC activated: Significant increase in fire activity in the region. Temperatures have returned to seasonal norms. No known direct impacts to First Nation communities at this time. Campfire ban in effect as of August 4, 2022.			
First Nation	Access Orders/Alerts	Community Impacts and Requests	Province/Agency Updates and Actions Taken
Ktunaxa Tribal Council		No recent updates.	•
EMBC SOUTH WEST REGION: The freshet situation is continuing to stabilize unless there are further impacts, the First Nations listed below are expected to continue working with EMBC on necessary recovery efforts without major updates relayed through situation reports.			
First Nation	Access Orders/Alerts	Community Impacts and Requests	Province/Agency Updates and Actions Taken
Chawathil Chief Rhoda Peters 650 members 380 on reserve 270 off reserve		Working on recovery related works in partnership with EMBC.	EMBC continues to support this community on recovery related works, as needed.
Cheam Chief Andrew Victor 568 members 255 on reserve 314 off reserve		All flood related assets borrowed by this community have been returned to the warehouse or are enroute.	EMBC continues to support this community on recovery related works, as needed.
Katzie Chief Grace George 636 members 324 on reserve 313 off reserve	0 Alert	All flood related assets borrowed by this community have been returned to the warehouse or are enroute.	EMBC continues to support this community on recovery related works, as needed.

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Seabird Island Chief James Harris 1079 members 677 on reserve 402 off reserve		All flood related assets borrowed by this community have been returned to the warehouse or are enroute.	EMBC continues to support this community on recovery related works, as needed.
Shishalh		Geotechnical report issued for a neighbouring community advised Shishalh of the risk to approximately 20 homes on Sinku Road. Shishalh is encountering challenges in finding a path forward in response to the report.	EMBC has recently met with Shishalh and will facilitate a table to bring the right parties to the table in an effort to move the project forward.
Shxw'ya Village Chief Robert Gladstone 464 members 125 on reserve 339 off reserve		All flood related assets borrowed by this community have been returned to the warehouse or are enroute.	EMBC continues to support this community on recovery related works, as needed.
Shxw'ow'hamel Si:yam Melody Andrews 215 members 115 on reserve 100 off reserve		All flood related assets borrowed by this community have been returned to the warehouse or are enroute.	EMBC continues to support this community on recovery related works, as needed.
Skwah Chief Lara Mussell 712 members 219 on reserve 493 off reserve			EMBC continues to support this community on recovery related works, as needed.
Sq'ewlets Chief Johnny Williams 284 Members 83 on reserve 201 off reserve			EMBC continues to support this community on recovery related works, as needed.
EMBC NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST REGION: Return to seasonal norms.			
First Nation	Access Orders/Alerts	Community Impacts and Requests	Province/Agency Updates and Actions Taken
Gitwangak Chief Sandra Larin 1466 members	Rescinded all orders and alerts	EOC stood down with no further needs regarding freshet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMBC supporting this community as needed. Tiger dams borrowed for freshet response have been returned to the warehouse.

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452 on reserve 1013 off reserve			
Takla Nation Chief John French 904 members 234 on reserve 680 off reserve		Takla Lake has opened a cooling centre in response to the heat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMBC supporting this community as needed.
EMBC VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COAST: Campfire Ban in effect as of August 4th, 2022. There are no Fires of Note in the area.			
First Nation	Access Orders/Alerts	Community Impacts and Requests	Province/Agency Updates and Actions Taken
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">

FIRST NATION RECEPTION CENTRE UPDATES:

- Penticton Indian Band is offering to act as a Reception Centre as needed, to support Lower Similkameen and others impacted by the Keremeos Creek Fire.
- A number of communities acted as cooling centres during the heatwave.

AGENCY UPDATES:

- ECCC forecasts 5am, 11am, 4pm.
- FNESS flood tools on the EOC support website and resources available to impacted communities: [First Nations Emergency Services Society of BC | Lightship Maps.](#)
- First Nation Health Authority (FNHA) is available to support communities as needed and calling into to all coordination calls.
- BC Wildfire Service crews pre-positioned to act on fires.
- All [road closures](#) can be found at DriveBC.
- The River Forecast Center current information on flood warnings and advisories can be found at <http://bcrcf.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/index.htm>
- MIRR is acting as Agency Representative and participating in all coordination calls hosted by the EMBC Regional Offices (PREOCs).

SOURCES:

As this is a dynamic situation, information noted in this document is subject to change quickly and is considered correct as at end of day.

Information contained herein should not be used as speaking notes or shared publicly.

- Information shared by Indigenous communities during EMBC-hosted coordination calls.
- Information shared by agencies during EMBC-hosted coordination calls.
- Alerts, Order and status information gleaned from EMBC, FNESS Situation Reports.