News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



August 7, 2021

Copper Canyon wildfire response ongoing, size of fire stable over last 24 hours

DUNCAN, BC – The Copper Canyon wildfire has held at 32 hectares in size, and while still considered out of control by BC Wildfire Service, suppression efforts and favorable weather conditions have been successful in curbing its spread since Friday.

A <u>State of Local Emergency</u> remains in place for a significant area surrounding the site of the fire, however no additional evacuation alerts or orders have been issued since yesterday.

The wildfire is burning on the north slope of Mount Prevost, heavily sloped third-growth forest that is difficult to access and challenging for the over 30 firefighters on scene. Given the geography of the area, a seven member crew with the BC Wildfire Parattack Program were deployed yesterday to assist in fire suppression efforts. The current BC Wildfire Service response also includes five helicopters and several water trucks and excavators, as well as other protection deployed to protect the single property on Mt. Prevost Road affected by the evacuation order issued yesterday.

While the 5 millimetres of rain and cool temperatures overnight had a positive impact on limiting the spread of the flames, the current windy conditions across the Cowichan Valley are not considered favorable. The CVRD Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) continues to monitor the situation in partnership with the Municipality of North Cowichan and the Halalt First Nation.

Residents are encouraged to check the <u>BC Wildfire Dashboard</u> to monitor the situation, and can anticipate further updates on the wildfire from the CVRD REOC tomorrow.

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