News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Mt. Hayes wildfire holding at 70 hectares

DUNCAN, BC - The Mt. Hayes wildfire is holding at 70 hectares as BC Wildfire Service crews continue responding to the ongoing situation on the ground.

Earlier on Friday, the Cowichan Valley Regional District and Regional District of Nanaimo issued a joint Evacuation Alert for civic addresses on Takala Road, David Road and Ivey Road.

Please refer to the Evacuation Alert on the CVRD website for a complete list of the affected properties and prepare to evacuate, if necessary. In the event of an Evacuation Order, emergency officials will come door-to-door to issue notice.

Additionally, an Evacuation Order is now in place for the Bush Creek Fish Hatchery near Christie Falls.

The public is being advised to avoid the Cowichan Valley Regional Trail in this area as well as the Comox Logging Truck Road.

Additional traffic controls and road blockades are in place to restrict access where there is a concern for public safety.

FortisBC continues monitoring the situation near its Mount Hayes LNG and working closely with BC Wildfire Service and local fire departments. An Evacuation Order issued on Thursday for the facility remains in place with only essential personnel on site.

FortisBC has contingency plans for fire scenarios as well as on-site fire control and response equipment in place.

We understand that the high visibility of the fire is causing ongoing public interest and concern.

For the latest information and updates, please check the <u>CVRD's website</u> and download the <u>Cowichan Alert Alertable app</u> for your smartphone.

For urgent public inquiries over the weekend please contact the Regional Emergency Operations Centre afterhours phone line by dialing 778-402-9596.

The next scheduled update on the Mt. Hayes wildfire will be provided on Saturday morning, or earlier if the information is time sensitive.

For more information, please contact:

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