November 2023

2023 McDougall Creek Wildfire Snapshot



The McDougall Creek Wildfire spanned the Central Okanagan area affecting the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO), West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, City of Kelowna and District of Lake Country. The fire destroyed 300 homes and caused the evacuation of 10,700 households and placed 10,700 more on alert. The wildfire was discovered on August 15 and declared Held on September 20 and resulted in 13,970 Hectares burned.

AUG 16

AUG 19

McDougall Creek Wildfire ignition started.

A state of emergency in the City of West Kelowna was declared.

AUG 17

AUG 15

Cold front moves through West Kelowna and RDCO Electoral Area West resulting in high winds spreading the wildfire and embers crossing Okanagan Lake impacting the Kelowna and Lake Country.

Formation of an Recovery Team. Emergency Operations Center provides support for those affected by the McDougall Creek Wildfire.

AUG 24

The City of Kelowna evacuation order is rescinded.

AUG 28 Resiliency Centre space donated by Anthem Property Management on

Westbank First Nation Lands.

AUG 29

Property site visits begin to assist residents with viewing loss of their properties over the following two weeks.

AUG 31

Resiliency Centre opens, with participation from various agencies offering essential services and support.

SEPT 05

Last Lake Country Evacuation Alerts rescinded. ESS relocates adjacent to Resiliency Centre. Red Cross donates 90 After Fire kits, 215 hygiene kits, and 48 clean-up kits.

SEPT 07

Successful key planned ignitions by BC Wildfire bring containment lines in sight.

SEPT 12

Returning Home and Experiencing Loss Virtual Information Session with Emergency Operations Centre staff and guests: First Nations Emergency Services Society, BC Wildfire Service, BC Hydro, Resiliency Centre, Health Emergency Management (Interior Health and Disaster Psychosocial Services)

SEPT 15

Needs assessments continue and Evacuation Orders are removed for West Kelowna and RDCO.

SEPT 20

Official classification of the wildfire status as "Held" by BC Wildfire Service.

SEPT 22

Release of a Post-Wildfire Assessment report highlighting potential hazards related to hydrophobic soil that may lead to flooding and landslides.

SEPT 25

Remaining Evacuation Alerts rescinded.

SEPT 28

The Emergency Operations Center was deactivated.

SEPT 29

Issued eNewsletter No. 1 to affected residents. Executive summary of the Interim Post Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Analysis.

OCT 10

The state of emergency for the City of West Kelowna was rescinded.

Authorization and finalization of Debris Management Plan, including demolition and waste disposal permits.

OCT 13

Issued eNewsletter No. 2 to affected residents.

OCT 17

OCT 11

To date 84 needs assessment, 400 resident interactions and 700 referrals. Issued eNewsletter No. 3 to affected residents.

NOV 17

The wrap-up of Resiliency Centre and Emergency Support Services.