



Penticton Indian Band

841 Westhills Drive

Penticton, British Columbia

Canada V2A 0E8

Telephone: 250-493-0048 Fax: 250-493-2882

**SNPINK'TN INDIAN BAND
NOTICE TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS
Bald Range Wildfire K51490**

August 18, 2026 8:00pm

Important: Nothing in the Evacuation Alert or Evacuation Order areas has changed. These preparations help PIB respond more effectively if needed.

Good Evening everyone, here is a Community Update Tuesday August 18, 2026!

Bald Range Fire Update – August 18, 2026

Today brought encouraging news as firefighting crews continued to make significant progress on the Bald Range Wildfire. Fire suppression efforts have successfully transitioned into extensive mop-up and patrol operations in many areas, with crews focusing on extinguishing hot spots, reinforcing containment lines, and monitoring for any flare-ups

Current Situation

The fire remains active at approximately 22,000 hectares, with the most significant activity occurring on the northwestern flank, away from Penticton Indian Band reserve lands. Recent spotting activity north of Bobtail Ranch was quickly and successfully contained by BC Wildfire Service crews. While conditions have improved, officials continue to caution that hot, dry weather and changing winds mean the situation can change quickly and communities must remain vigilant

Evacuation Orders and Alerts

The current Evacuation Orders and Alerts remain in place while crews complete mop-up operations and ensure conditions are safe for residents to return. Limited escorted access continues for affected property owners, and officials expect to reassess evacuation statuses over the coming days

Power Restoration

There is positive news regarding power restoration. BC Hydro assessments revealed that approximately 80% of the affected power infrastructure remains intact, allowing restoration work to move forward more quickly than originally anticipated. Crews have begun repair work, although a confirmed restoration date is not yet available

Regional Recovery Efforts

Across the region, recovery efforts are beginning. The District of Summerland has downgraded evacuation orders for much of the community, allowing thousands of residents to return home. However, many families



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throughout Summerland, Faulder, and surrounding areas continue to face significant losses, and our thoughts remain with those impacted

Community to Community

PIB continues to support neighbouring communities and emergency response partners through acts of collaboration and generosity, including providing bannock to emergency operations centres and assisting firefighting efforts with water tenders and personnel

Our Vulnerable Members

The safety of our vulnerable community members remains a priority. Several medically vulnerable members were proactively relocated earlier in the emergency and are expected to return home within the coming days. We extend our appreciation to the Health Department and all those who helped coordinate and support these efforts

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, PIB leadership has begun discussions with BC Wildfire Service on long-term wildfire risk reduction initiatives, including fuel management, mechanical thinning, and forest management planning for Blue Mountain and surrounding reserve lands. These initiatives will help strengthen community resilience and reduce wildfire risk in the future

As fire activity continues to decrease, the PIB Emergency Operations Centre is gradually transitioning back to regular operations while maintaining readiness to respond if conditions change. A comprehensive review of the emergency response will be conducted once the State of Local Emergency is lifted, and community feedback will be welcomed as part of that process

We extend our sincere gratitude to

- PIB Fire Department,
- Natural Resources,
- Operations, Infrastructure and Public Works,
- Health and Social Development, Finance, Planning, Administration, Communications Teams
- Westhills crews and Equipment Operators,
- BC Wildfire Service,
- the firefighters from Mexico,
- XR Security,
- RDOS EOC Liaison Saisha Wagnitz,
- All emergency responders, partner agencies, and all community members who have contributed throughout this wildfire response



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While today's update is encouraging, conditions can change rapidly. Please remain prepared, keep emergency plans in place, stay registered with Voyent Alert and ESS, and continue to follow all Evacuation Orders and Alerts currently in effect

Voyent Alert

Please register for Voyent Alert at register.voyent-alert.com or download the app. You will get real-time, location-specific notifications for critical emergencies like this fire. Please help family members and neighbours who are less comfortable with the app to get registered.

- For Apple devices: <https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/voyent-alert/id1301602902>
- For Android devices:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.icesoft.voyent.vras.android&hl=en_CA

For more information contact:

EOC Director Greg Gabriel: 250-490-7250

EOC Liaison Lesley Gabriel: 250-809-1895

For Further information can be found at pib.ca and PIB Emergency Updates Page www.pib.ca/pib-emergency-update-page/