



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 14, 2026 4:00pm

Important: The reception centre, evacuation routes, buses and door knocking are preplanning only. Nothing in the Evacuation Alert or Evacuation Order areas has changed. These preparations help PIB respond more effectively if needed.

Good Afternoon everyone, here is a Community Update Friday August 14, 2026!

Message From Leadership

Today marks Day 7 of our response to the Bald Range Fire. We have many plans in place that are either operational or ready to be activated, and our fire crew and staff continue to do a fantastic job responding to this emergency. Some of us even managed to get a little more sleep last night, which is a positive sign as we continue working around the clock to protect our community.

Where the Fire Stands

The Evacuation Order for part of Shingle Creek and the Evacuation Alert for most of IR1, including the Upper and Lower Village, remain in place and are unchanged.

There has been increased fire activity on the southwestern flank. The fire crossed one of the original high guards and the retardant line and dipped down above Josh Paul's property. Since then

A new machine guard and water line were established in advance of this crossover and are now serving as the primary control line. The blue guard line extends across the face of the fire and remains active. The land is well saturated and crews continue to maintain the water line.

Although there has been increased activity and smoke in this area, crews remain confident that the new guard is holding strong.

The eastern flank continues to look good with no significant movement reported.

Fire line information is being drawn and updated in real time by crews working in the field to ensure accuracy.

From the Front Line

Our crews continue to work extremely hard on the fire line. Significant fire guards, wet lines, and structure protection measures have been established throughout the affected areas.

As of 11:00 a.m., increased activity was observed on the southwestern flank. Approximately 40 Initial Attack personnel were assigned to the area above Josh Paul's property to strengthen containment efforts. As of 4:00pm, There is still fire burning above Josh Paul's house but it has diminished, there are 45 initial attack crew in that area right now and additional guard has been placed around the property. Sprinkler activity has been increased on rotation.

BC Wildfire Service has relocated its staging area to the upper southwest corner along the green guard. Westhills Aggregates operators and equipment remain on site, and their work schedule will continue unchanged through the weekend.

BC Wildfire continues to have substantial resources assigned to the incident, including:

- Ground crews in multiple locations
- Heavy-lift helicopters
- Heavy equipment
- Skimmer aircraft

Recent updates from BC Wildfire indicate positive progress in several areas. Residents in Trout Creek have been permitted to return home, and Highway 97 remains open to through traffic from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



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There is still fire activity above Josh Paul's property; however, fire behavior has diminished. Currently, 45 Initial Attack personnel are working in this area, and additional guard protection has been established around the property. Sprinkler operations have also been increased and are being rotated as needed.

From a safety perspective:

- All personnel continue to wear required PPE.
- The PIBNR Emergency Transport Vehicle is on site.
- A dedicated OFA Level 3 First Aid Attendant has been assigned.

Shingle Creek Road Checkpoint

The Shingle Creek Road Checkpoint remains operational and staffed.

Access is restricted to:

- PIB Initial Attack crews and support personnel
- Westhills operators and support staff
- BC Wildfire Service
- City of Penticton Fire Department
- Designated runners

These restrictions help keep the roadway clear for emergency equipment and ensure public safety in an area where conditions can change rapidly.

RCMP officers are now stationed at the Shingle Creek Road Checkpoint.

Snpink'tn Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)

Throughout the week, the EOC has planned for numerous scenarios, identified required resources, implemented response plans, and maintained constant communication with:

- RDOS Emergency Operations Centre
- City of Penticton Emergency Operations Centre
- BC Wildfire Service
- Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

These partnerships ensure decisions are based on the best available information and current conditions.

As a result, the following measures are now in place:

- Reception Centre established in Oliver
- Accommodation arrangements with OIB and LSIB
- Evacuation routes and checkpoints identified
- Buses prepared and available
- Structure protection completed on at-risk homes
- Approximately 12 staff trained in Emergency Support Services registration
- Vulnerable persons list established
- Cost tracking systems in place
- Shingle Creek Road checkpoint operational

Community updates and notices are available at: www.pib.ca/pib-emergency-update-page

Updates are also distributed through:

- Voyent Alert
- PIB Social Media
- PIB Website

Paper copies of community updates continue to be delivered directly to community members.

Emergency Support Services reception centre secured

We have secured the Osoyoos Indian Band Hall in Oliver, 6046 Sandpoint Drive, as our Emergency Support Services (ESS) reception centre. It is arranged but will not open unless an evacuation happens.



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ESS is the provincial program that covers basic needs in the first days after an evacuation: food, lodging, clothing, incidentals and transportation, short term and case by case.

Please create your ESS profile now

Anyone in BC can create a profile at any time, whether or not they are on alert, and doing it now saves a lot of time and stress later.

Go to ess.gov.bc.ca, use the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool, and select self-register.

Creating a profile is the step you take in advance. If you are ever evacuated, you then create an ESS file in the same tool, or a responder does it with you at the reception centre. If you are not preregistered, plan on at least 45 minutes per household to register at the ESS reception centre. The waits can be long because of this.

ESS Help Line: 1-800-387-4258

Staffing and accommodation - (only for an Evacuation Order)

We have requested help from the Keremeos ESS volunteer team. They have seven Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) trained responders with eight computers and printers plus additional staff. Their supervisor will tour our ESS reception centre in Oliver today to preplan the space. About twelve of our own staff completed ESS training this week, and we have laptops and equipment organized.

Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB) is setting up cots in their gym, and the Ashnola campground will take trailers. Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) has trailer space and capacity for up to 400 group accommodation in other facilities. We are grateful to both.

What a reception centre visit looks like

You check in at the door, a responder confirms your identity and pulls up your file if you have self-registered, you go through a needs assessment about what your household actually needs, and, if eligible, supports are issued by e-transfer or as referrals. Bring water, medications and chargers, and come registered if you can. If you are not self-registered, plan on at least 45 minutes per household

Vulnerable members

We have a list of members who may need assistance to evacuate that their family cannot provide, or who may need a lot of extra time to evacuate because of health reasons. If you know someone who should be on it, send the name to Jackie at Health, with their permission where you can.

Door knocking

We have been working with the RCMP and Search and Rescue (SAR) and have a list of staff living outside the alert area who could help with door knocking if an order were ever issued. Teams of two, a staff member and SAR member, or RCMP, work an assigned block of addresses, deliver the notice, ask whether the household needs transportation or has anyone needing assistance, and record what they found at each address

Pets and Livestock

The EOC has received a donation of cardboard cat carriers, along with a limited number of leashes and collars from the BC SPCA. These supplies are available at the Community Hall for members preparing pets for a potential evacuation.

Thank you to Christine for coordinating this support.

The BC SPCA is offering free kenneling and pet care services for evacuated residents.

BC SPCA: 250-861-7722



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If you require assistance with animals during an evacuation, ALERT (Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team) can also help.

ALERT: 250-809-7152

Please be patient with their volunteers, as they are currently managing more than 300 requests for assistance across multiple evacuation zones.

Your preparation

Please pack a grab-and-go bag for each person and each pet in your household, with 72 hours of essentials: medications and prescriptions, ID and key documents, phone chargers, water, food, glasses, cash, and a change of clothes. Keep vehicles above half a tank and parked facing out, and have a plan for anyone in the household who cannot drive or move quickly. Know your route out before you need it. If an order comes, leave straight away.

Prepare a grab-and-go bag for every member of your household and each pet, including:

- Medications
- Identification
- Important documents
- Phone chargers
- Water
- Food
- Glasses
- Cash
- Change of clothing

Keep vehicles fueled to at least half a tank and know your evacuation route.

If an Evacuation Order is issued, be prepared to leave immediately

Community Safety Notice

PIB Chief and Council are reminding all Members, guests, residents and businesses living and visiting on PIB Lands that community safety remains the highest priority. Due to increasing reports of dangerous activities, bylaw violations, and behaviors that pose risks to public safety, particularly during the current high fire danger season, Council will be taking a stronger enforcement approach.

EOC Weekend Status Update

After seven days of intensive planning, coordination, and emergency operations, the PIB EOC has successfully implemented key response measures and can stand down over the weekend while continuing to monitor the Bald Range Fire and any changing conditions.

Current response plans, evacuation procedures, transportation resources, accommodations, checkpoints, structure protection, emergency support services, and communication systems remain in place and ready to be activated if required.

The PIB EOC Team will continue to monitor updates from BC Wildfire Service, partner agencies, and field crews. Should conditions change or an emergency arise, the EOC can be reactivated immediately to support community members.

Weekend Emergency Contact Information

We extend our sincere gratitude to all firefighters, emergency responders, PIB staff, contractors, volunteers, partner agencies, and community members who have worked tirelessly throughout this event. Your dedication, professionalism, and commitment have helped keep our community informed, prepared, and safe.

While the EOC is standing down for the weekend, we remain vigilant and ready to respond should circumstances change. Please continue to stay prepared, remain aware of current conditions, and follow all evacuation alerts, orders, and public safety directions.

If an emergency or urgent situation arises this weekend, please contact:



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Chief Greg Gabriel *EOC Director / Chief* - (250) 490-7250
Jeanie Lanine *EOC Planning Section Chief / CAO* - (250) 886-0650
James Pepper *Logistics Section Chief / Natural Resources* - (250) 469-3183
Lesley Gabriel *Liaison Officer / Communications* - (250) 809-1895

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

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU NEED TO EVACUATE

- Locate all family members and designate a meeting area outside the evacuation alert area, should an evacuation order be called while family members are separated.
- Pack essential items such as government-issued ID, medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers, immediate care needs for dependents, and keepsakes if time and space permit.
- If you are caring for an Elder, a person with disabilities, or anyone who may require extra time to evacuate, do not wait for an official evacuation order before taking action. Use your own discretion, assess conditions, and leave immediately if safety may be at risk.
- Prepare to take pets with you and move livestock to a safe area if possible. Pet owners and hobby farmers can contact ALERT at 250-809-7152 or info@alertcanada.org. Farmers should contact the PIB EOC.
- Arrange transportation for all household members. Fill your gas tank. If transportation assistance will be needed, call the PIB EOC.
- Arrange accommodation for everyone in your residence. If possible, plan to stay with family.
- If you will require government assistance with basic needs such as lodging and food, Emergency Support Services will be available. Create a profile at ess.gov.bc.ca.
- Do not wait for an Evacuation Order to be issued before evacuating if you feel unsafe. Monitor official news sources and PIB communications.
- Download the Voyent Alert app and sign up for alerts from snpink'tn Indian Band.

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 restrictions page](#)