



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 16, 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 Sunday August 16, 2026!

Bald Range Fire Update – August 16, 2026 (8:00pm)

Overall, the fire situation continues to improve, particularly in areas affecting PIB, Westbench Area, and the City of Summerland. Significant progress has been made on the south part of the fire, and crews are focused on extinguishing remaining hot spots, cleanup activities, and restoring/repairing infrastructure. Fire crews are starting mop up operations along Shingle Creek Road, to make sure that all hot spots are fully extinguished. BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) has stated that the risk of flare ups in the southern fire area is low, and no concerns have been raised regarding fire activity despite the current wind conditions.

The PIB Evacuation Order and Evacuation Alert remains in place at this time to allow firefighting, rehabilitation and restoration work to continue expeditiously and safely. Personnel and equipment are still in operation for road repairs, infrastructure restoration, and any other incident operations. Reopening the area too early could create safety concerns and interfere with critical recovery efforts. Road rehabilitation work on Shingle Creek Road is now underway. Crews will be utilizing graders, water trucks, dump trucks, and other heavy equipment to repair damage caused by the firefighting operations and help improve future emergency access through the corridor.

Positive progress has also been reported regarding BC Hydro infrastructure. An assessment completed yesterday found that more than 80% of the affected transmission line adjacent to PIB IR1 and IR3A remains intact. It is better than originally anticipated and is expected to accelerate repair efforts and support a faster restoration of electrical service to affected homes without power. No restoration date has not yet been provided.

Across the broader Bald Range Fire, the incident remains 21,480 ha in size. It is estimated 50% of the fire is now contained within established control lines, and there has been limited significant change over the weekend. Fire suppression is focused on the west and northwest sections of the originating fire line, where some complex terrain and fuel conditions continue to present challenges.

The Incident Management Team reports growing confidence in the South and South East portions of the fire. As Evacuation Orders decrease, some resources are beginning to be demobilized or reassigned, while some firefighting personnel and Air resources remain concentrated in the northwestern sector.

Air Quality (See attached notice)

Smoke from the fire continues to impact local air quality, particularly during overnight and early morning temperature inversions, which can cause smoke to settle in valleys and low lying areas. Air quality is expected to improve as daytime temperatures rise and inversions lift.



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Our members, especially Elders, children, pregnant women, and those with respiratory or heart conditions, should continue to limit outdoor activities if smoke levels increase and take appropriate precautions when air quality is poor.

Looking Ahead

The incident is transitioning from active fire suppression toward mop up, rehabilitation, infrastructure repairs, and preparation for the eventual safe return of residents. Crews will continue extinguishing remaining hot spots, restoring damaged roads and infrastructure, and assessing conditions daily. Further updates will be provided as recovery work progresses and operational responsibility continues to transition to BCWS.

Overall, this is encouraging news for PIB and surrounding communities, with positive progress along the south flank of the Bald Range Fire and decreasing risk to PIB and other communities.

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:

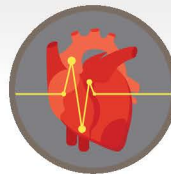
EOC Director Greg Gabriel: 250-490-7250

EOC Liaison Lesley Gabriel: 250-809-1895

For Further information can be found at pib.ca and [PIB restrictions page](#)

WILDFIRE SMOKE

Different people respond differently to smoke. People with chronic conditions, people who are pregnant, infants and small children, older adults and people with respiratory infections may need extra care.



SYMPTOMS

- Sore throat
- Eye irritation
- Runny nose
- Mild cough
- Phlegm/mucous production
- Wheezy breathing
- Headaches

MORE SEVERE SYMPTOMS

- Shortness of breath
- Severe cough
- Dizziness
- Chest pain
- Heart palpitations

Anyone with these symptoms needs medical attention



REDUCING EXPOSURE to wildfire smoke
is the best way to protect health.



STAY INFORMED & PLAN AHEAD

- Check the latest local air quality readings and advisories regularly.

CHECK-IN

- Pay attention to how you feel, and watch for symptoms in those around you.

HYDRATE

- Drink plenty of water, and offer water to those in your care.

RELOCATE

- Go to local libraries, community centers or other public spaces that have central air conditioning and cleaner air.

REDUCE EXPOSURE

- Reduce outdoor physical activities and stay indoors when smoke is heavy.

COOL & FILTER

- Filter indoor air using portable HEPA air filters.
- Keep windows and doors closed during high smoke times; but on hot days, make sure the indoor temperature is at a comfortable level because heat can be dangerous.
- Use energy efficient, mechanical cooling in addition to portable air cleaners to create cool spaces with clean air for hot days.

