

Important Message for Commercial Ranchers Affected by the Fire

It is the responsibility of farmers and ranchers to create and enact their farms/ranches' emergency response plan; which includes planning for your livestock during a wildfire event. If the event is beyond your capacity and you require assistance please contact the local authority in your area.

Evacuation Alert

The purpose of the Evacuation Alert is to inform the public, including agriculture sector, of a potential threat or impending danger. An Evacuation Alert allows livestock producers to activate their emergency plan and to begin relocation of their livestock or to plan to shelter in place. Livestock relocation is to occur at this stage as there is seldom access at the Evacuation Order stage; support for commercial farm operations may be available please contact your local authority's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Evacuation Order

When an evacuation order is issued, people are to leave the area immediately; the focus at this stage is human safety and not on livestock. RCMP will enforce evacuation orders and restrict access into areas under evacuation orders. Once livestock producers leave their farm or ranch they will no longer be able to return.

Evacuation Rescind: When the emergency which necessitated the evacuation is under control and the hazard/emergency zone is declared safe, a Rescind of the Evacuation Order is issued.

Re-entry into Evacuated Areas

Your plan should not be contingent on re-entry and the possibility of re-entry should not be assumed. If re-entry is considered it is evaluated on case by case bases and allowing re-entry is at the discretion and approval of the EOC Director and Incident Commander. Human safety is the first priority, wildfire conditions may be such that re-entry is not possible. If conditions are deemed to allow for re-entry it may be possible to gain access for commercial livestock related purposes; you should contact your local authority for more information.

Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation

Farmers impacted by fires may qualify for relocation assistance under the Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation. This support has been established specifically to enable livestock relocation at the **evacuation alert stage** recognizing the time and effort required to move livestock.

Support may be available to offset expenses related to hiring third party transport or third party provision of feed and yardage. For return transport to be eligible it must occur within 96 hours of the Evacuation Rescind. Transportation and/or sheltering by the owner's own farm business are considered part of the farm business operations and are not eligible.

If you need assistance please ensure that you contact your local government EOC to request help with emergency livestock relocation.

For Producers in Regional District Bulkley Nechako

RDBN Emergency Operation Center 250-692-3195

Links for official and updated information – please refer to official information sources when possible

Regional District Bulkley-Nechako <http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/>

RDBN Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BulkleyNechakoEmergencyInfo/>

RDBN Twitter <https://twitter.com/BNemergencyInfo>

Emergency Info BC <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>

BC Wildfire Service <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/wildfire-situation>

BC Ministry of Agriculture Emergency Preparedness Information
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/emergency-preparedness>

Premises ID Program <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/premises-id>

For producers in other areas of the province contact your local government and check their website for information.

Ranch/Farm business considerations for next steps.

When making your plans do not forget to consider potential next steps once the all clear is received, will animals return home, is there a marketing plan to enact, what resources will you need moving forward? If you are impacted there are information resources that can help with your recovery planning needs, please contact your local Ministry of Agriculture office.