



August 10, 2026, Issue Brief

Wildfire activity across BC has increased significantly in recent days, resulting in a provincial state of emergency and heightened attention on travel conditions across the province. Within the Kootenay Rockies, wildfire impacts remain specific to certain areas, including an Evacuation Alert in the Beaton area and several wildfire Area Restrictions, while major highways remain open. This issue brief provides regional context on the provincial wildfire situation, current impacts within the Kootenay Rockies, and guidance to help tourism partners support informed visitor travel decisions.

Provincial Wildfire Situation – Kootenay Rockies Update

On August 8, the province of British Columbia declared a State of [Provincial](#) Emergency in response to escalating wildfire activity affecting several communities across BC. Our thoughts are with the communities, residents, visitors and tourism businesses directly affected, and with the firefighters, emergency personnel and others supporting the response.

While the provincial wildfire situation is significant, conditions and impacts vary considerably across BC. Within the Kootenay Rockies, there are currently no active Evacuation Orders, and no major highways are closed due to wildfire. An Evacuation Alert is in place for the Beaton area of Columbia Shuswap Regional District, and several Area Restrictions remain in effect around active wildfires. Communities and tourism businesses throughout the region remain open and continue to welcome visitors.

Wildfire activity does remain present within and around the Kootenay Rockies, and localized Area Restrictions and changing smoke conditions continue in some locations. Conditions can change quickly, making it important for visitors to check current information for their specific destination and travel route.

Know Before You Go

Kootenay Rockies Tourism maintains a [Know Before You Go](#) page to help visitors find current travel advisories and information affecting travel within the region. Tourism partners are encouraged to share this resource with guests before and during their trip and to include it in pre-arrival communications where appropriate.

The page provides a regional starting point for current travel information, with links to official sources where visitors can confirm the latest wildfire activity, road conditions, air quality, closures and other travel considerations.

What this means for tourism partners

With increased attention on the provincial wildfire situation, tourism businesses and destination organizations can help visitors understand current conditions and make informed travel decisions.

Partners are encouraged to:

- **Check in with upcoming reservations.** Proactive communication can help guest understand current conditions at their destination and make informed decisions about their plans.
- **Provide geographic context.** Wildfire impacts in one part of BC do not necessarily reflect conditions elsewhere. Help visitors understand conditions affecting their specific destination and travel route.
- **Share Know Before You Go.** Direct guests to Kootenay Rockies Tourism's Know Before You Go page as a regional starting point for current travel information.
- **Help visitors adjust plans when needed.** If a visitor's intended destination or route is affected, help them explore alternatives in areas that are not impacted where possible.
- **Direct visitors to official information.** Encourage guests to check BC Wildfire Service, EmergencyInfoBC, Drive BC and local emergency information before and during their trip.
- **Respect evacuation areas and restrictions.** Visitors should not travel into communities or areas under evacuation orders and should respect all road closures, Area Restrictions and directions from emergency officials. Visitors in areas under Evacuation Alert should remain informed and be prepared to adjust their plans if conditions change.
- **Connect visitors with local Visitor Centres.** Visitor Centres can help travellers understand local conditions and identify alternative routes, destinations and experiences.

- **Keep visitor communications current.** Review websites, social channels, automated emails and other visitor communications regularly as conditions evolve.

Supporting Informed Travel

Visitors should make travel decisions based on current information for the communities, destinations and routes they intend to visit rather than assuming wildfire conditions are the same throughout BC. Kootenay Rockies Tourism continues to monitor wildfire activity, travel conditions and potential impacts to the visitor economy across the region and will share relevant updates with tourism partners as conditions change.

Evacuation Alert – Beaton Area

An [Evacuation Alert](#) has been issued for the Beaton area of Columbia Shuswap Regional District Area B due to the [Johnson Creek \(N51066\)](#) wildfire in the vicinity. The Alert applies to properties along Fish River Road and the Incomappleux River Forest Service Road.

Visitors planning travel or backcountry activities in the affected area should monitor current conditions and be prepared to adjust their plans.

What this means for visitors and tourism partners

Tourism operators with guests travelling to or recreating in the Beaton, Fish River or Incomappleux areas should ensure they are aware of the Alert and encourage them to monitor official emergency information.

Visitors travelling elsewhere in the region should continue to check current conditions for their specific destination and route, as wildfire conditions can change quickly.

Monitor [Revelstoke Emergency Management](#) and [EmergencyInfoBC](#) for updates to the Evacuation Alert.

New Area Restriction – Hope Creek North Wildfire

The BC Wildfire Service has issued a new [Area Restriction](#) around the [Hope Creek North wildfire \(N71254\)](#), adjacent to the Lardeau River. The restriction took effect August 9 and limits public access to Crown land within the designated area to support public safety and wildfire response operations.

Highway 31 remains open through the area and travel along the highway is permitted. The restriction primarily affects access to the surrounding backcountry, including roads and recreation areas within the restricted zone.

Visitors travelling through the Lardeau Valley should continue to respect the Area Restriction, avoid accessing closed backcountry areas, and check current wildfire and road conditions before travelling.

What this means for tourism partners

- Highway 31 remains open.
- Ensure guests planning backcountry activities in the area are aware of the restriction.
- Do not direct visitors onto forest service roads or into the restricted area as an alternative route.
- Continue to direct visitors to BC Wildfire Service and DriveBC for current conditions.

Monitoring Resources

For current regional travel information, visit Kootenay Rockies Tourism's [Know Before You Go](#) page.

For official updates, continue to monitor [BC Wildfire Service](#), [EmergencyInfoBC](#), [Drive BC](#), and local government emergency information.

**This report includes content generated with AI assistance, with all information verified and approved by Kootenay Rockies Tourism staff. Final content reflects our organization's expertise and commitment to accuracy.*