



August 17, 2026, Issue Brief

New wildfire activity has resulted in localized evacuation measures in parts of the Kootenay Rockies, including two new Evacuation Orders. While these impacts are geographically limited, wildfire conditions remain elevated across the region, and visitors and tourism partners should continue to monitor current conditions when travelling, particularly in rural and backcountry areas.

A [State of Provincial Emergency](#) remains in effect, along with wildfire prevention measures, localized access restrictions and ongoing air quality alerts. This issue brief provides an update on current evacuation measures and reinforces important considerations for visitor travel, backcountry access and recreation.

Current Conditions

Wildfire activity remains dynamic across the Kootenay Rockies. While there are currently no widespread disruptions to major regional travel corridors, new wildfire activity has resulted in localized Evacuation Orders and access impacts.

Wildfire smoke continues to affect portions of the region, with [Air Quality Warnings](#) being issued regularly and conditions varying considerably between communities and throughout the day. Visitors may experience periods of reduced air quality and visibility, including in areas that are not near an active wildfire.

Dry conditions also persist across much of the region. Combined with ongoing wildfire activity, these conditions reinforce the importance of wildfire prevention, preparedness and responsible travel in rural and backcountry areas.

The State of Provincial Emergency remains in effect, along with the recreational off-road vehicle prohibition and a number of localized [Area Restrictions](#).

What this means for tourism partners

- Encourage visitors to check current wildfire, emergency, road and air quality information before travelling.
- Be clear about the geographic extent of Evacuation Orders and other access restrictions to avoid creating the impression that surrounding communities or destinations are closed.
- Continue communicating current Area Restrictions and recreation access measures where applicable.
- Reinforce wildfire prevention and responsible backcountry travel, particularly during ongoing dry conditions.

New Evacuation Orders

New wildfire activity has resulted in localized evacuation measures in parts of the Kootenay Rockies, including an Evacuation Order affecting areas near Beaton and Trout Lake. While these impacts are geographically limited, wildfire conditions remain elevated across the region, and visitors and tourism partners should continue to monitor current conditions when travelling, particularly in rural and backcountry areas.

Beaton / Trout Lake Area – Evacuation Order

An Evacuation Order is in effect for areas near Beaton and Trout Lake due to wildfire activity associated with two active wildfires: [N51066](#) near Beaton and [N71327](#) near Trout Lake.

The Evacuation Order includes affected lands in the Fish River Road and Incomappleux River Forest Service Road area near Beaton and an area near Trout Lake. The Order applies only to the properties and lands within the highlighted evacuation polygons. Visitors and tourism partners should refer to the official maps to determine which areas are affected.

Wildfire information:

- [Beaton area – N51066](#): BC Wildfire Service incident page
- [Trout Lake area – N71327](#): BC Wildfire Service incident page

- [Evacuation Order information and maps](#): Revelstoke & Area Emergency Management

What this means for visitors

Visitors should not enter areas under Evacuation Order and are asked to avoid affected backcountry areas. The evacuation measures are localized and do not indicate that the broader Revelstoke or Trout Lake destinations are under evacuation.

Visitors planning travel or backcountry recreation in these areas should review the official evacuation maps and check current wildfire, emergency and road information before heading out, as conditions and access can change quickly.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Prohibition Remains in Effect

The recreational [off-road vehicle prohibition](#) remains in effect throughout the Southeast Fire Centre. The prohibition applies to recreational use of ATVs, motorcycles and off-road side-by-side vehicles on Crown land.

This is not a general closure of Crown land or the backcountry. Commercial and industrial exemptions remain in place, and highway-legal vehicles may continue to travel on qualifying established roads, including Forest Service Roads, provided they remain on the established road. Other road closures, Area Restrictions and evacuation measures may still apply.

Visitors and tourism businesses should continue to review the official BC Wildfire Service order and current access information before travelling into backcountry areas.

KRT has prepared an Information Bulletin explaining the prohibition. [[SE Fire Centre Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Prohibition – Information Bulletin HERE](#)]

Area Restrictions Remain in Effect

BC Wildfire Service has rescinded the Area Restrictions for the Mount Rollins and Calamity Creek wildfires, effective at noon on August 17. Fire behaviour and activity on both wildfires have decreased to the point that public access no longer needs to be restricted.

Both wildfires remain active worksites. Visitors entering previously restricted areas should continue to use caution, and smoke may continue to be visible within the fire perimeters.

Several other Area Restrictions remain in effect across the region. An Area Restriction applies to a specific geographic area and should not automatically be interpreted as a closure of the surrounding community, destination or broader backcountry area.

Tourism partners should review the individual order and map when assessing impacts, as proximity to an Area Restriction does not necessarily mean a tourism operation, recreation area or travel route is within the restricted area.

Current Area Restrictions include:

- [Hope Creek](#) North – N71254 (NE of Poplar Creek)
- [Sea Lion Mountain](#) – N41412 (NE of Golden)
- [Jumbo Creek](#) – N21071 (W of Invermere)
- [Matthew Creek](#) – N11020 (W of Kimberley)
- [Inonoaklin Creek](#) - N51198 (NW of Needles, Hwy 6)
- [Poplar Creek](#) – N71253 (NE of Meadow Creek/Kaslo, Hwy 31)

Visitors are encouraged to check the BC Wildfire Service and DriveBC before travelling and to respect all posted closures and directions from emergency personnel.

[\[Understanding Wildfire Prohibitions and Restrictions\]](#)

Backcountry Travel & Preparedness

With dry conditions and localized wildfire-related access measures continuing across the region, visitors heading into the backcountry are encouraged to check current conditions and access before setting out. This includes reviewing wildfire activity, Evacuation Orders, Area Restrictions, road conditions and any other access measures that may affect their planned route.

Visitors should also leave a trip plan with a responsible person, including where they are going, their intended route and when they expect to return. AdventureSmart provides an online Trip Plan tool that can be completed and shared with family or friends before heading out.

[AdventureSmart – Leave a Trip Plan](#)

Monitoring Resources

Conditions can change quickly between issue briefs. The following official resources provide the most current information on wildfire activity, emergency information, travel conditions, and air quality.

Wildfire Information

- [BC Wildfire Dashboard](#)
- [InciWeb](#) (US)

Travel & Emergency Information

- [EmergencyInfoBC](#)
- [Regional District of Kootenay Boundary](#) emergency page
- [Regional District of East Kootenay](#) emergency page
- [Regional District of West Kootenay](#) emergency page
- [Golden & Area](#) emergency page
- [Revelstoke & Area](#) emergency page
- [DriveBC](#)

Air Quality & Smoke

- [BC Air Quality Warnings](#)
- [Environment Canada Air Quality Health Index](#)
- Government of Canada [FireWork](#)

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