



August 2, 2026, 2nd Issue Brief

Wildfire conditions continue to evolve rapidly across the Columbia Valley. Since this morning's issue brief, ongoing wildfire activity has resulted in continued highway closures, a widespread power outage affecting essential visitor services, and a new Area Restriction for the Calamity Creek wildfire. This update highlights the latest travel impacts and visitor considerations for tourism partners.

Wait Creek Wildfire (N11360) – Major Travel Disruptions

The [Wait Creek](#) wildfire continues to create significant travel disruptions in the Columbia Valley. [Highway 93](#) and [Highway 95A](#) remain closed, interrupting the primary north-south travel corridor between Cranbrook and the Columbia Valley. [Evacuation Orders and Alerts](#) remain in effect in the area as emergency responders continue to support wildfire suppression and community protection efforts.

What does this mean for visitors?

Visitors should respect all road closures and evacuation areas and should not attempt to bypass closures using local roads or forest service roads. These routes may be needed for emergency responders, evacuation traffic, and wildfire operations, and unauthorized travel can interfere with response efforts or place visitors at risk.

If your travel plans include the Columbia Valley, check DriveBC and local emergency information before departing, follow signed detour routes, and allow extra travel time.

Regional Power Outage – Travel and Visitor Services

A widespread power outage is affecting communities throughout the Columbia Valley, disrupting essential services for residents and travellers. While highways remain open where not otherwise impacted by wildfire activity, the outage is affecting fuel, charging, payment systems, and other visitor services.

What does this mean for visitors?

Visitors travelling through the Columbia Valley should plan ahead, as access to essential travel services is significantly limited.

- Fuel and EV charging are currently unavailable along major travel corridors, including between [Revelstoke and the Alberta border on Highway 1](#) and between [Golden and Fort Steele on Highways 93 and 95](#).
- Ensure that you have sufficient fuel before entering the affected area and do not rely on fuel or charging services being available en route.
- ATMs may be unavailable, and electronic payment systems may not be functioning. Carry cash if possible.
- Some businesses may be operating with reduced services or may be temporarily closed depending on backup power and communications.
- Cellular service and internet connectivity may also be affected in some locations.

Visitors are encouraged to check [DriveBC](#), [BC Hydro](#), and local emergency information before travelling and allow extra time as conditions continue to evolve.

Calamity Creek Wildfire – New Area Restriction

BCWFS has implemented an [Area Restriction](#) around the Calamity Creek wildfire to protect public safety and provide firefighters with safe access to suppression operations. The restriction takes effect immediately and remains in place until October 15, 2026, or until rescinded. The restriction applies to Crown land within the boundaries identified in the BC Wildfire Service order. Visitors should avoid the restricted area and respect all posted closures and directions from officials.

What does this mean for visitors?

An Area Restriction is implemented to keep people out of areas where wildfire suppression activities are underway, or conditions are unsafe. Visitors should not enter the restricted area, even if there are no visible flames or smoke. Fire behaviour can change quickly, and heavy equipment, aircraft, and firefighting crews may be working throughout the area.

If you are planning to hike, camp, fish, or recreate near Calamity Creek, check the current Area Restriction before travelling and choose an alternative destination if your planned route or recreation area is affected. Respect all posted closures and directions from officials to help ensure the safety of both visitors and wildfire personnel.

**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.*