

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



August 12, 2021

State of Local Emergency extended by one week for Copper Canyon wildfire

DUNCAN, BC – Although the 32-hectare Copper Canyon wildfire is largely contained and at a status of ‘being held,’ the State of Local Emergency has been extended until Friday, August 20.

Declaring a state of local emergency enables local authorities in the Province of British Columbia to exercise the emergency powers listed in the Emergency Program Act. The emergency powers could be utilized by the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) to order the evacuation of residents from their homes, prohibit travel and enter private property when an emergency threatens lives, property, or the environment within the local authority’s jurisdiction. As the Copper Canyon fire is not yet deemed under control, in order to keep the current [Evacuation Order](#) in place as recommended by BC Wildfire Service, the SOLE required an extension.

With most emergencies, the size of the SOLE area significantly exceeds the size of the threat (fire, flood, etc.), as is the case with the Copper Canyon wildfire (see attached image). For residents with properties within the SOLE area, any change in status that poses imminent or immediate threats to safety of life or property would result in further evacuation alerts or orders. At this time the REOC does not anticipate any need for such action.

The BC Wildfire Service reports that despite hot, dry and windy conditions at the site of the fire, there was no change to the size of the fire overnight. Resources on scene have not changed since earlier this week.

Smoke from wildfires burning in other regions of British Columbia have entered our airshed and degraded air quality in the Cowichan region. Earlier today Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a Smoky Skies Bulletin for Southern BC advising people with pre-existing health conditions, respiratory conditions and other sensitive populations to exercise caution when outdoors. Residents can check the [CVRD Air Quality Map](#) for real time air quality data.

The CVRD Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) continues to monitor the situation in partnership with the Municipality of North Cowichan and the Halalt First Nation. Residents are encouraged to check the [BC Wildfire Dashboard](#) to monitor the status of the Copper Canyon fire, as well as the [CVRD website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for further updates as they become available.

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For more information, please contact:

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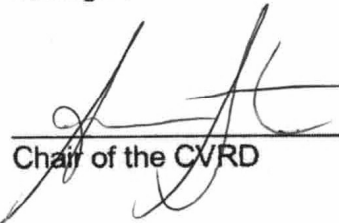


Extension Request For State Of Local Emergency

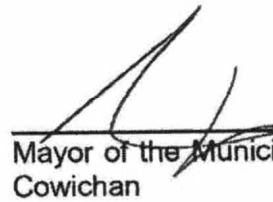
WHEREAS life and property remain at risk due to the Copper Canyon Wildfire in the Cowichan Valley Regional District;

AND WHEREAS response to this wildfire continues to require use of the emergency powers to regulate persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of people or to limit damage to property;

The Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Mayor of the Municipality of North Cowichan have requested to extend the duration of the declaration of a state of local emergency due to expire on August 13, 2021, at midnight.



Chair of the CVRD



Mayor of the Municipality of North Cowichan

Aug. 12/21

Date Signed

August 12, 2021

Date Signed

Minister Decision

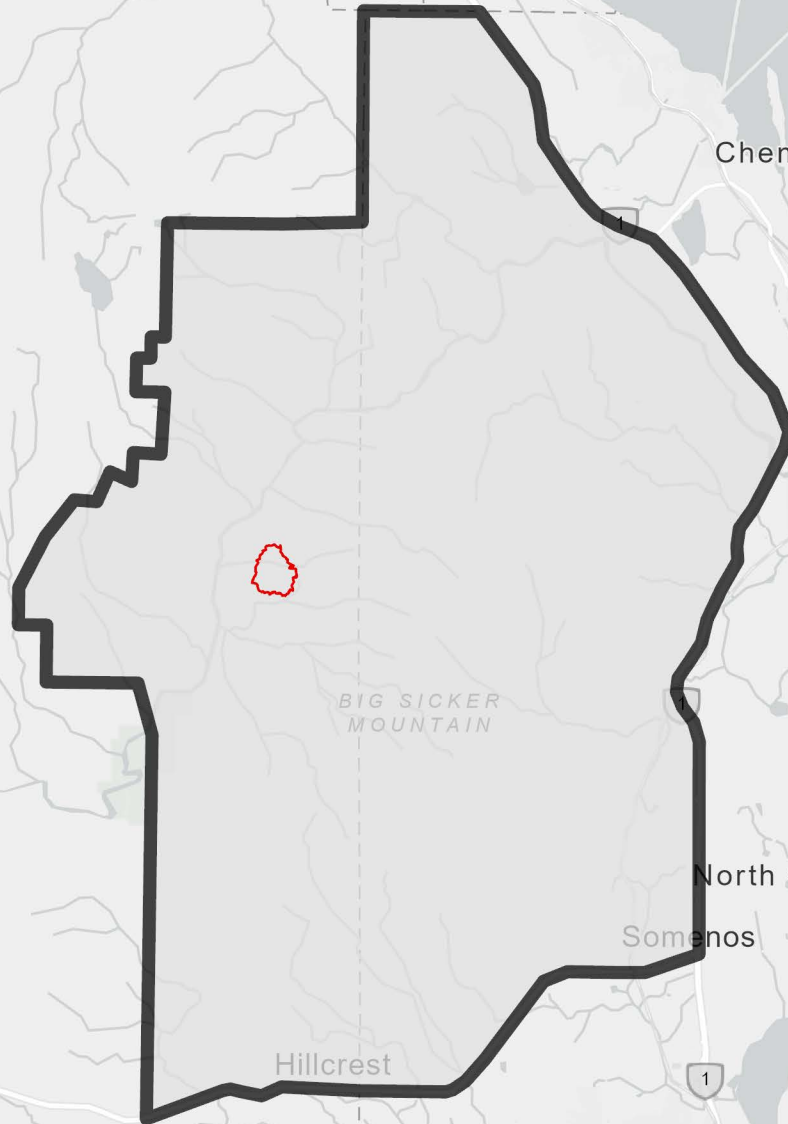
IT IS HEREBY **APPROVED** / NOT APPROVED pursuant to Section 12(6) of the *Emergency Program Act* (RS, 1996, Chap.111) that the Cowichan Valley Regional District may extend the duration of a state of local emergency for a further seven days to August 20, 2021, at midnight.





(Minister responsible)

August 12, 2021

Date Signed



 Fire Perimeter
 State of Local Emergency

