

## News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2021 – Morning Update

### **Mt. Hayes wildfire expands to 70 hectares overnight**

**DUNCAN, BC** - BC Wildfire Service continues to focus its attention on a highly visible wildfire burning on the southeast slope of Mt. Hayes that has grown to 70 hectares overnight.

The steep terrain is making it challenging for emergency crews to access the area and move equipment.

In response to this ongoing incident, the Cowichan Valley Regional District has activated a Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) and declared a State of Local Emergency for Electoral Area H – North Oyster/Diamond and a small portion of Electoral Area G – Saltair/Gulf Islands.

Traffic control measures restricting access to local roads in the area have been put in place to ensure public safety. The public is strongly advised to follow these area restrictions.

On Friday, BC Wildfire Service is responding with four initial attack crews, five helicopters, air tankers, seven pieces of heavy equipment, two officers and 14 contracted crews.

The REOC is also actively working with the BC Wildfire Service, Town of Ladysmith, Stz'uminus First Nation and the North Oyster Fire Department.

For further updates on wildfires, residents can check the [BC Wildfire Dashboard](#) or follow [BC Wildfire Service](#) on Twitter. You can also follow the CVRD on [Facebook](#).

You can also download the Cowichan Alert [Alertable app](#) to receive emergency updates on the Mt. Hayes wildfire.

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For more information, please contact:

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