

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mt. Hayes wildfire experiences no significant growth overnight Friday**

**DUNCAN, BC** - The Mt. Hayes wildfire experienced no significant growth overnight Friday and ongoing objective of BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) and supporting firefighters from the Cowichan region is to continue establishing fireguards in order to limit any further potential spread.

Fire crews monitored the situation on the ground last night and focused efforts on the eastern slope of Mt. Hayes.

On Saturday, BCWS has deployed five helicopters, five officers, 56 firefighters as well as several pieces of heavy equipment to suppress the fire and establish fireguards around the perimeter.

A fireguard is established by removing of any ground fuel along a strategically planned barrier and is intended to limit or stop the spread of a fire.

The State of Local Emergency issued by the CVRD's Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) also remains in place into the weekend. Residents in the area should continue to watch for updates on the latest information regarding the Mt. Hayes wildfire.

Due to the changing wind patterns, the Town of Ladysmith and surrounding area is experiencing increased wildfire smoke on Saturday morning.

Smoke can affect each person differently, based on their health, age and exposure. If you begin to notice symptoms such eye irritation, running nose, sore throat, mild cough, wheezing or headaches, take steps to limit your exposure.

Smoke levels may be lower indoors, however levels of smoke particles will still be increased. If you stay indoors, be aware of your symptoms.

Visit [Island Health's website](#) for more tips to reduce your personal risk.

The Evacuation Alert issued by the REOC on Friday for residences on Takala Road, David Road and Ivey Road continues to be in place. Please be prepared to leave your home on short notice if it is determined to be necessary. Emergency officials will come door-to-door to notify you.

An Evacuation Order for Bush Creek Fish Hatchery is also still active due to an ongoing risk to public safety. Please avoid this area, including use of the Cowichan Valley Regional Trail.

The ongoing effort to contain the Mt. Hayes wildfire has involved significant collaboration across multiple jurisdictions and organizations.

Additionally, fire departments from North Oyster, Ladysmith and the Cowichan region are working closely with BCWS in firefighting efforts.

For the latest information and updates, please check the [CVRD's website](#) and download the [Cowichan Alert Alertable app](#) for your smartphone.

You can also visit the [BCWS' dedicated webpage](#) for updates on the Mt. Hayes wildfire.

For urgent public inquiries over the weekend please contact the Regional Emergency Operations Centre afterhours phone line by dialing 778-402-9596.

The next scheduled update on the Mt. Hayes wildfire will be provided on Saturday evening, or earlier if the information is time sensitive.

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