



SCHOOL DISTRICT 78 FRASER-CASCADE

EVERYONE PULLING TOGETHER

Sept. 11, 2022

Re: Flood Falls Trail Fire

Dear Staff, Parents and Caregivers,

We continue to monitor the conditions resulting from the Flood Falls Trail Fire. On the advice of BC Wildfire, the District of Hope has declared a local state of emergency and issued Evacuation Orders for nine properties in the Hunter Creek and Laidlaw region. There is currently no threat identified east of this area. In consultation with the township and emergency services, the following updates were provided, as of the evening of September 11, 2022:

- With smoke now lingering and moving over Hope, the air quality index is at “**very high risk to severe**”.
- Eastbound lanes of Trans Canada (between Popkum and Hope) remain closed.
- As a result, both highway 7 and 9 are experiencing heavy traffic flow.
- Current evacuation orders have been issued for properties on Hunter Creek Road and Trans-Canada Highway near Laidlaw.
- The fire continues to move west and away from the District of Hope.

What does this mean for our school status?

- Our primary concern is with students, staff and families located in the impacted areas. We are working with our school district staff to communicate with affected families and support them as necessary.
- While the air quality is poor, we do not anticipate any school closures at this time.
- Schools are equipped with Merv13 air filters which are of exceptionally high quality. While this will not prevent poor air quality in schools, it can lower the side effects of smoke and other particulates.
- We are monitoring the situation at Silver Creek Elementary closely and at this time it will be open tomorrow (Monday).
- **Due to road closures/heavy road congestion, families and staff should plan their travel accordingly and allot more time for their morning commute.**

Current information on school status due to this current situation are also available at:

- District Website www.sd78.bc.ca
- Twitter @sd78bc www.twitter.com/sd78bc
- School Websites www.sd78.bc.ca/schools-facilities/
- Select School Facebook Pages
- Emails from your school Principal or a School Representative
- Radio: STAR FM and/or CBC Radio

If you do not have internet connectivity, but your phone is working, call a relative or friend in an area that has not been affected by the event and ask them to check the district website for you. Local radio stations are also informed of school status. Decisions on school closures are usually communicated by 6:30 am.

As always, it is a parent's decision to send their child to school based on safety and individual circumstances. If you feel it is unsafe for you or your child to travel to or attend an open school for any reason, please keep your child at home and report their absence to their school.

Our situation remains unpredictable, but we hope our community and schools will stay safe from further harm from the fires. We ask that everyone work together to prepare for challenges and consider their home emergency plan if evacuations become necessary. While this is currently deemed unlikely, we must be prepared for any possible situations. We will do our best to communicate with you any updates we receive.

If there is anything we have learned from last year, we have an unresolved spirit to take care of each other and work together.

We will get through this!

Sincerely yours,



Balan Moorthy

Superintendent of Schools