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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Aug. 12, 2017

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development  
BC Wildfire Service

### **Public access to Crown land restricted in Cariboo Fire Centre**

Effective at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 11, 2017, all Crown land within the Cariboo Fire Centre was closed to public access due to the continued extreme fire danger and the number of active wildfires throughout the region.

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#### **Why are you restricting access to all provincial Crown land in the Cariboo Fire Centre?**

The order is being issued in the interest of public safety. Given the level of fire activity and extreme fire danger rating, we do not want people stranded in remote areas if there are new fire starts.

#### **Does this area restriction apply to First Nations and towns?**

The area restriction order applies to all provincial Crown land. It does not apply to Indian Reserves, Aboriginal Title Land, or to land within municipal boundaries.

#### **Off-road vehicles are already restricted. Why do you need to close access to all Crown land?**

The area restriction order is being issued in the interest of public safety, to restrict access to a broader area than just that accessed by off-road vehicles. The activity restriction issued last week regarding off-road vehicles continues to apply.

#### **My permanent residence is accessed via a forest service road. Do I need authorization to go to my home?**

The area restriction order provides for a person to travel to and from his or her residence without a special authorization.

#### **I have a cabin that I access from a forest service road. Can I still access my cabin?**

Yes, provided it is not in an area under evacuation order. You must stay on private property and not enter into Crown land.

#### **I don't run a commercial operation, but what about clients or guest of one? Are they permitted in the restricted area?**

Yes, so long as they are paying clients or guests of the commercial operation.

#### **Does this area restriction apply to areas under an *evacuation alert* from the Cariboo Regional District?**

Yes. Travel in areas under an evacuation alert is further restricted by this area restriction order.

**Does this area restriction apply to areas under an *evacuation order* from the Cariboo Regional District?**

No. Access to areas under evacuation order is governed by the Cariboo Regional District.

**I just want to launch my boat from a recreation site. Is that permitted?**

No. Recreation sites and trails in the affected area are closed until further notice.

**Are bodies of water part of the area restriction?**

Yes, bodies of water are part of the area restriction. Access to bodies of water is permitted when:

- they are part of your commercial operation; or
- you are a client of a commercial operation

**Do I have access to the dump?**

Yes, unless it is in an area under evacuation order.

**How will the area restriction be enforced?**

There will be increased patrols by enforcement personnel.

**Why aren't similar closures being issued in other areas of the province?**

The decision to implement area or activity restrictions are made at the fire centre level and such decisions are not taken lightly. In making the decision, multiple factors are considered, such as weather conditions and forecasts, access routes, active fires and fire danger ratings.

Activity restrictions for off-road vehicles on all Crown land, including forest service roads and the operation of on-highway vehicles off of roads, remain in effect for the Kamloops Fire Centre and Southeast Fire Centre.

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