



PRESS RELEASE

September 14, 2017

Local State of Emergency Remains In Effect

The Local State of Emergency remains in effect for the Special Areas 2.

A grass fire started the afternoon of Monday, September 11th and quickly grew beyond the capabilities of local emergency services. Mutual aid was requested from neighboring municipalities, and a State of Local Emergency was declared at 11:48 pm. A mandatory evacuation of residents in the impacted area was ordered, and remained active until September 12th. The emergency reception center set up at the Bindloss School was open until September 13th, providing shelter for over forty local area residents. It continues to act as a staging area for support and recovery services.

There have been no active fires in the burn area located in the Special Areas since Tuesday, September 13th. Fire crews remain on site and are monitoring the situation. The burn area did receive some precipitation Wednesday overnight, and cooler temperatures paired with the increased humidity have improved local conditions.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is coordinating recovery operations and will continue to provide updates as available. Recovery efforts are underway, with Special Areas coordinating with residents, victim services, and provincial agencies.

This fire has been devastating in its impact. Estimated at 90,000 acres in size, the fire has resulted in approximately 160 cattle lost, one farm site destroyed and undetermined miles of fence and infrastructure burnt. The lives of those impacted, from the residents who had to leave their homes and farms in the middle of the night to those on the front-line who tirelessly fought this fire have been changed forever. Our focus remains on providing support and assistance to those impacted, helping them in the days and weeks to come.

The Special Areas Board thanks everyone who responded to this call, from area residents to neighboring municipalities and fire services. Your perseverance, courage and resilience in the face of devastation is inspirational. To those affected, we are here supporting you as you begin the process of rebuilding. To everyone who responded, thank you for all you do on behalf of the people who call the Special Areas home.

All media inquiries to be directed to:

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