Media Release #1 August 27, 2023

## John Brown Creek (Witset) Wildfire Information

The RDKS was informed by the British Columbia Wildfire Service on the afternoon of August 27, 2023 that the John Brown Creek wildfire #R31512 is nearing the community of Witset. BC wildfire service personnel are assessing the fire, and operational plans will be made for today and the days moving forward. There are currently 4 pieces of heavy equipment on the fire, as well as an equipment group supervisor and a response officer from the zone. Helicopters will continue to provide bucketing support today as well. BCWS is currently getting an updated fire perimeter. An Evacuation Alert has been issued. Please visit the RDKS website to see the Alert. Residents are asked to remain vigilant as the situation can change quickly.

For latest wildfire information, please visit the BC Wildfire Service online at: <u>BC Wildfire Service</u> (gov.bc.ca)

#### **Emergency Management B.C.**

- The Province of BC has information for all residents on how to be prepared and stay safe during an event and recovery: <u>Get prepared for a wildfire</u>
- Emergency Management BC also has a <u>Wildfire Preparedness Guide</u> available online.

### **Emergency Support Services (RDKS)**

- If you are displaced from your home due to an emergency event, we are here to help.
- The 24-hour hotline is available by calling: **250-641-2443**

#### **Important terms:**

Here are some important terms to note in the event of a wildfire:

- Evacuation Alert: Be ready to leave on short notice
- Evacuation Order: You are at risk. Leave the area immediately
- Evacuation Rescinded: All is currently safe and you can return home

#### **Regional District Contact**

Address: 4545 Lazelle Ave, Suite 300 Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Phone: 250-615-6100 Email: mnelson@rdks.bc.ca For more information on RDKS Fire preparedness, or general information, please visit our website at:

www.rdks.bc.ca



# John Brown Creek Fire (Witset)

Date: August 27, 2023 and Time: 16:00 (4:00pm)

Due to the potential danger to life and health that may arise from Wildfire #R31512 the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS) has issued an **Evacuation Alert** for:

<u>John Brown Creek Fire, in proximity of the community of Witset shown on the attached Evacuation Alert Map.</u>

An Evacuation Alert has been issued to prepare you to evacuate your premises or property should it be found necessary. Residents will be given as much advance notice as possible prior to evacuation; however you may receive limited notice due to changing conditions.

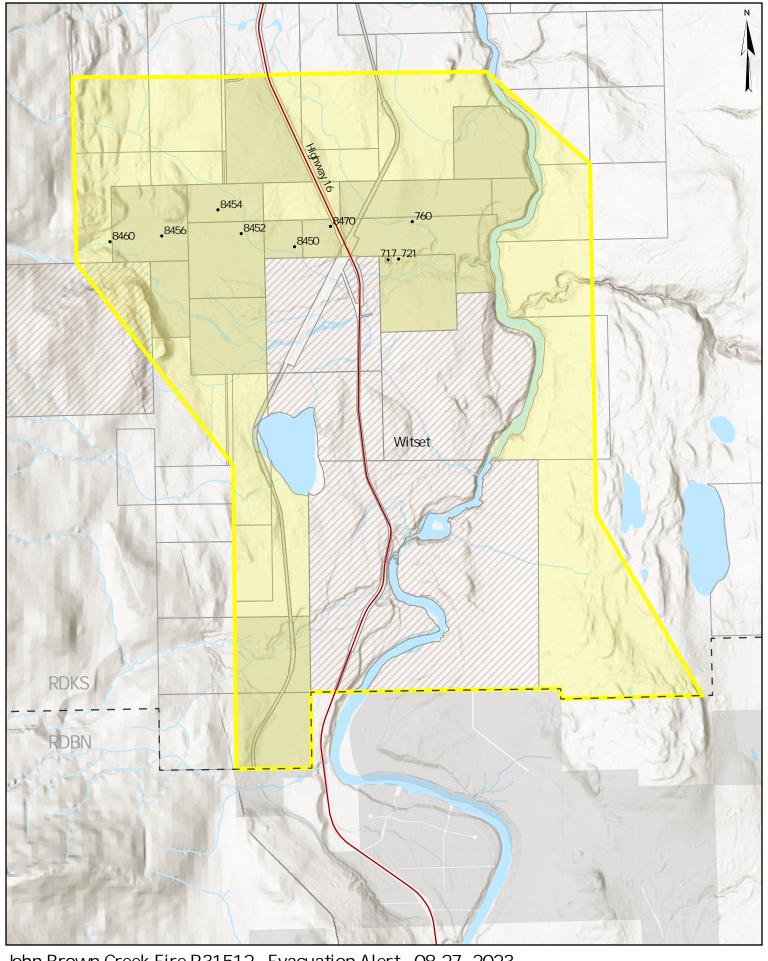
#### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

- It is recommended that everyone register with the RDKS Mass notification system for real time updates. <a href="https://voyent-alert.com/ca/community/">https://voyent-alert.com/ca/community/</a>
- Locate all family members and designate a meeting area outside the evacuation area, should an Evacuation Order be called while separated.
- Pack essential items such as government-issued ID, medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers (e.g. insurance, credit, and mortgage information), immediate care needs for dependents and, if time and space permits, keepsakes for quick departure.
- Prepare to move disabled persons, children and/or neighbours, if assistance is needed.
- Prepare to take pets with you and move livestock to a safe area (if possible).
- Arrange transportation for all your household members. Fill the gas tanks of personal vehicles. If transportation assistance is needed, call ESS at 250-641-2443.
- Arrange accommodation for all members of the residence, if possible.
- Wait for an Evacuation Order to be issued before evacuating. Monitor www.rdks.bc.ca/news/radio for information on evacuation orders and location of Reception Centres.

The RDKS will provide updates, information, and resources on local radio stations, our website <a href="https://www.rdks.bc.ca">www.rdks.bc.ca</a> and social media pages.

Renee Lukasser

**Acting EOC Director** 



John Brown Creek Fire R31512 - Evacuation Alert - 08-27 - 2023



