British Columbia Wildfires: Evacuations Widen Across the Okanagan

Bald Range Fire Prompts Provincial State of Emergency

British Columbia is managing an active wildfire situation in the South Okanagan region, where the Bald Range wildfire near Summerland has led to a provincial state of emergency and evacuation orders affecting thousands of residents.

The fire grew from 103 to 136 square kilometres over the weekend, prompting the cancellation of 14 flights and the delay of four others at Kelowna International Airport. The entire community of Summerland, home to roughly 12,000 people, was placed under evacuation order, along with about 8,000 residents in and around Peachland. More than 20,000 people are now under wildfire-related evacuation orders across the province, with air quality warnings in effect for Kelowna, Kamloops, and Vernon.

B.C. Premier David Eby noted that more than 100 wildfires are active across the province, with close to half classified as not yet contained amid dry, breezy conditions. Officials have confirmed that some homes have been lost, though the total number is still being assessed, and authorities are looking into a possible fatality in the Meadow Valley area. Local health authorities have extended hours at nearby urgent care centres to support affected residents.

Given the ongoing dry conditions across the B.C. Interior, further evacuation activity and continued disruption to regional transport and air quality are possible in the coming days.

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