



Fort Nelson First Nation
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EVACUATION ALERT

Fontas Area

May 19, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

An **Evacuation Alert** has been issued by the Fort Nelson First Nation at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

We wish to advise our members about the difference between an *Evacuation Alert* and an *Evacuation Order*:

- a. An *Evacuation Alert* is issued when the EOC makes a decision that there is a potential need for the planned evacuation of an area, due to individuals being at risk of potential need for evacuation. The alert highlights the nature of the danger and that people should be prepared to evacuate the area on short notice. The evacuation alert may allow for individuals at risk to begin an orderly preparation to voluntarily leave the affected area, within a specified time frame. However, the reality of the situation may require immediate action with very short notice.
- b. If required, an *Evacuation Order* may be issued after it is identified by means of a Council Resolution or Order developed by local authority EOC. Orders make it very clear to all Fort Nelson First Nation members, that, while the evacuation order is in effect, the area in question may have controlled access and that a pass may be required to regain access to the area.

There is a wildfire located in the Klua Lakes area approximately 35 kilometers east of the community of Prophet River and poses considerable threat to Fontas.

Due to the risk of wildfire the Fort Nelson First Nation is urging residents and visitors within the Fontas area to be prepared to evacuate if ordered to do so by emergency officials. The area is described as:

- Fontas 1 (06591) the geographical location of Peace River District, Lot 2318, approximately 10.10 hectares in the Klua Lakes area
- 76 kilometers south east of the community of Fort Nelson First Nation
- 61 kilometers northeast of the community of Prophet River
- On the right bank of the Fontas River, 1 mile east of the mouth of the Sikanni River
- Latitude and longitude 58°17'9.24"N and 121°43'36.73W
- This area includes one inhabited home and many cultural sites
- See attached map on page 3.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WHEN AN EVACUATION ALERT IS IN EFFECT

- You should be prepared for the evacuation order by:
- Locating all family members or co-workers and designate a safe meeting place in the event that an evacuation order is called.
- Gathering essential items such as medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers (i.e. insurance), immediate care needs for dependents and, if you choose, keepsakes (photographs, etc.). Have these items readily available for a quick departure.
- Consider moving any disabled persons and/or children to a safe area.
- Moving pets and livestock to a safe area.
- Arranging to transport your household members or co-workers in the event of an evacuation order.
- Arranging accommodation for your family if possible. In the event of an evacuation, emergency accommodation will be provided if required.
- Monitoring news outlets for information on location of Reception Centres and status of evacuation orders.

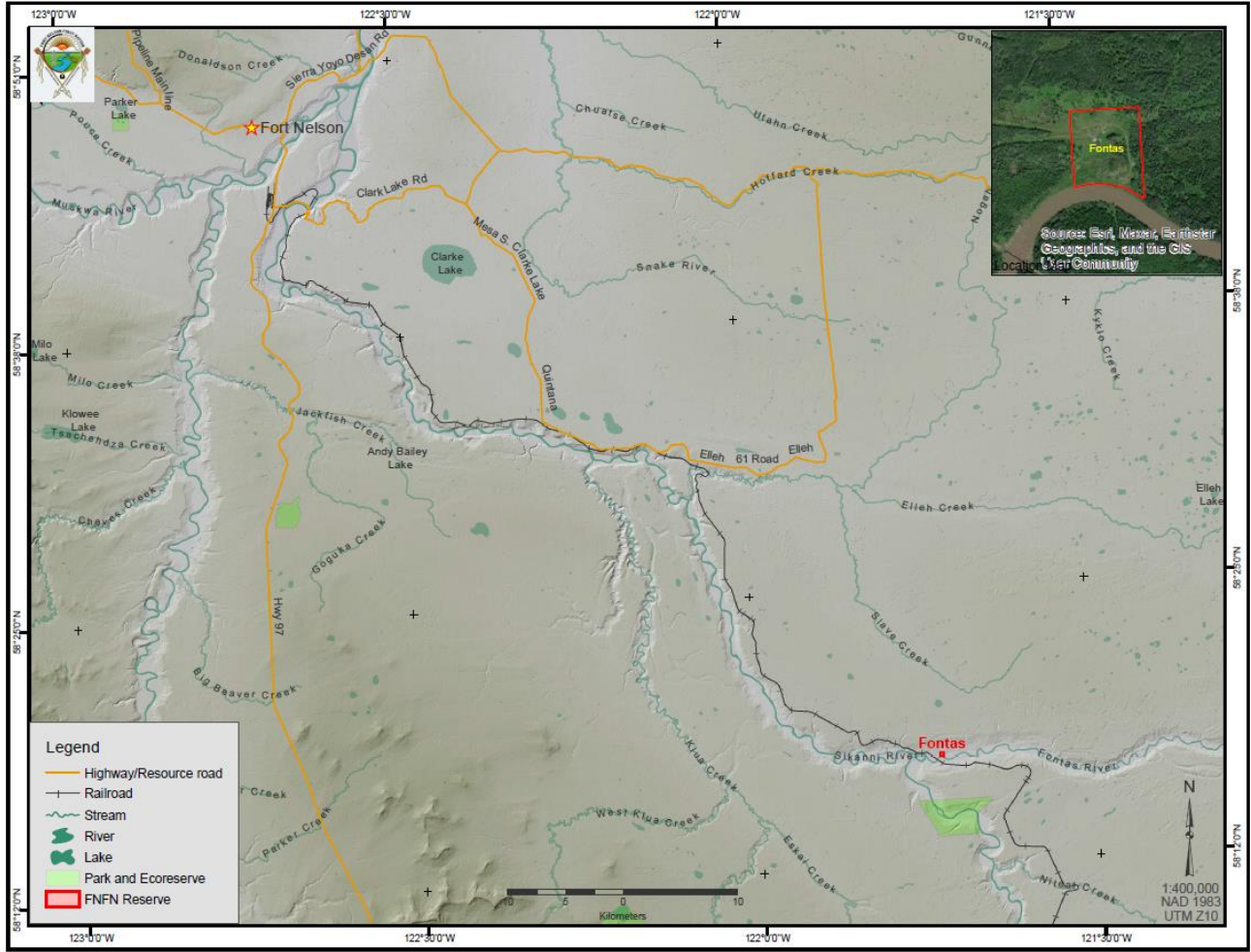
IF YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE

- Take an emergency survival kit with you.
- Make sure you take prescription medicine and identification for the entire family.
- Listen to the radio and follow instructions from local emergency officials.
- If you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity.
- Make arrangements for your pets. Local emergency officials will advise you.
- Wear clothes and shoes appropriate for the conditions.
- Lock your home.
- Follow the routes specified by emergency officials. Don't take shortcuts. A shortcut could take you to a blocked or dangerous area.
- If you have time, leave a note telling others when you left and where you went. If you have a mailbox, you can leave the note there.
- If you have time turn off all outside water sprinklers so water is conserved for firefighting efforts.

This Evacuation Alert will remain in force for seven days unless canceled by order of the Fort Nelson First Nation. For more information contact: Fort Nelson First Nation 250-500-2656 or should the situation change or for up to date information please visit our webpage at <http://www.fortnelsonfirstnation.org/wildfire-update> or our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/FortNelsonFirstNation/>



Sharleen Gale, Chief Councillor
Fort Nelson First Nation



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