

Emergency Resources for BC's Tourism Industry

As you know, there are some areas of the province currently dealing with wildfires, impacting visitors and businesses, and potentially influencing those who may be planning a trip to our province.

Stay Safe, Stay Informed

During times of stress and uncertainty, it is important to share information from official sources only. There are a variety of resources available to help you prepare for emergencies, gather up-to-date information and help visitors plan their travel.

PreparedBC: Tourism Resources

- Step-by-step guides to prepare businesses and their staff for emergencies, with templates and tools to help operators easily plan a fast and effective response.
- Guide for Tourism Operators
- Emergency Plan for Tourism Operators

The BC Wildfire Service

- <u>Interactive map</u> of all active wildfires across the province.
- Twitter: @BCGovFireInfo
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo/
- Campfire bans, restrictions and forest use

Emergency Info BC

- Information about emergencies in BC, including evacuation orders and alerts.
- Twitter: @EmergencyInfoBC

Drive BC

- Information about road closures, major events and transportation delays.
- Twitter: @DriveBC

BC Parks

- Information regarding Provincial campgrounds and park closures.
- http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/ or #BCParks on Twitter

Recreation Sites and Trails

- Alerts, closures and warnings regarding BC's rustic campsites and recreational trails.
- http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/camping-hiking/sites-trails/alerts

Environment Canada

- Resource for the latest weather information, statements, and air quality advisories.
- Twitter: @environmentca

Emergency Social Services

• Information regarding emergency reception centres and assistance.

Red Cross

- Evacuees can register with the Red Cross by calling 1-800-863-6582
- Twitter: @RedCrossBC

What Business Owners Can Do:

- Share these resources with your staff and follow key social media accounts for the latest news.
- Help your guests:
 - If your business is located in an impacted area, provide your current customers and future reservations with regular updates by directing them to official information sources.
 - If your business is not impacted directly, help your current guests plan the rest of their trip to areas
 that are safe and open for business (your <u>local visitor centre</u> has a wealth of information on places to
 stay and things to do).
 - o If your business is not impacted directly, be proactive with future reservations—let your customers know it's business as usual and you are looking forward to hosting them. British Columbia is a very large province and sometimes our out-of-province guests can get confused by geographically misleading information.
- Have a plan—use the <u>PreparedBC: Tourism Resources</u> to prepare for emergencies and to identify potential hazards.

What Destination BC will do:

• Destination BC's consumer marketing efforts will continue to promote the entire province, adapting to the needs of each region/community, by placing focus on areas that are not currently impacted by emergencies, and supporting impacted areas once the emergency is over and recovery has begun.