

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Animals and Livestock

Stickpin Fire – Washington State Evacuation Alert – Parts of Grand Forks and Christina Lake

August 27, 2015

The BC Ministry of Agriculture provided the following advice for residents with animals.

Animal owners should have a plan for their animals and make sure they'll have food, water, shelter and any veterinary supplies they need.

Make arrangements for your hobby animals in case you have to go to a shelter where they cannot be with you. Boarding options are shown below.

Commercial livestock producers involved in **farm businesses*** should make relocation arrangements where possible, and may obtain assistance through the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) where necessary. Commercial livestock may be relocated under an Evacuation Alert with approval from the EOC, so contact EOC (250-368-9127) to discuss your situation.

Due to the increased possibility of animals becoming lost or disoriented, please ensure you have a way of identifying your animals:

- Hobby animals may have tattoos, licenses and/or computer chips, make sure you have some documentation of that method and take some pictures. Horses may have brands but many do not, as a precaution take some pictures and possibly braid a small tag with your name & contact information into their mane where they are not likely to rip it off.
- Livestock are likely to have brands, tattoos, and/or RFID tags, but taking some extra pictures and having their documentation to go is prudent.

There are relocation options for non-commercial livestock. Non-commercial livestock relocation is not eligible for financial assistance. Owners of non-commercial livestock are responsible for costs for transport, boarding, food and water. Note that there are no hay supplies available at boarding facilities. Animal owners must either transport their own hay or make arrangements with a local supplier.

If non-commercial livestock relocation assistance is required, contact Rick Fillmore at 250-921-4683.

Non-commercial livestock can be boarded at Pass creek fair grounds, contact Rick or Donna Smith, mobile at 250-365-9878, home at 250-365-7273 or the fair grounds at 250-365-6885 for details and fees. The Trail Horseman's Society facility south of Trail is also available to board horse, contact Samantha at 250-367-9720 for fees and details.

* **Farm businesses** are defined by the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*. Generally this is those farm businesses where a reasonable expectation of income, based on sales, is anticipated including, but not limited to, the rearing and keeping of livestock. Livestock and livestock raising are defined by the *Assessment Act*, Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation. It does not include the keeping of pets such as members of the genus *Canus* or *Felis*, hobby farms or animals kept within the confines of a home. (From EMBC Policy on livestock relocation <http://www.embc.gov.bc.ca/em/policy/livestock/policy.pdf>)