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Be Prepared this Wildfire Season with Bulkley-Nechako Voyent Alert

Burns Lake, B.C. – Residents across northern BC are happy to see Spring arriving. Unfortunately, another year with a below-average snowpack means that the potential risk for drought remains very high. Drought conditions can bring a variety of challenges, including higher vulnerability to wildfire activity.

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) would like to take the opportunity to remind residents that <u>emergency preparedness is a personal responsibility</u>. Knowing where to find information and having a plan in place are critical steps to help make your family and community safe and ready for any type of emergency.

The **Bulkley-Nechako Voyent Alert** system is the region's primary tool to deliver emergency messages to the public. This messaging system is free to the public, easy to use, and is the most reliable way to get information delivered directly to your cell phone, email, or landline. You can sign up to receive alerts for specific address points, including your home, your workplace, your children's school, or the homes of loved ones.

An Evacuation Alert is a notice that there could soon be an Evacuation Order in your area. These Alerts are no longer being delivered door-to-door. Staying up-to-date with a Voyent Alert notification or following the RDBN's Emergency Information Facebook page and website are the best ways to access trusted, reliable information, and know what is happening in your community. Voyent Alerts are the only way to have information delivered to you by the RDBN without having to look it up yourself. Evacuation Orders will still be delivered door-to-door, but an Order means "you must leave now" and you will not have time to make calls or pack up important belongings. Receiving a Voyent Alert notification about an Evacuation Alert is the best chance for preparing your home and family for a potential evacuation.

Information about how to register for **Bulkley-Nechako Voyent Alert**, as well as other valuable preparedness tips, can be found on the <u>RDBN's website here</u>.

"As we look at the challenging environmental conditions heading into the 2025 wildfire season, we strongly encourage residents to take a couple of minutes to make sure they know how to access reliable information, as well as think about what their own homes' evacuation needs are, and make plans early. Knowing what you need to take, and that all your loved ones have a plan, is the best way to prepare for a potential evacuation or other emergency events. Registering for **Bulkley-Nechako Voyent Alert** is a crucial first step in that preparedness."

-Mark Parker, RDBN Board Chair

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