



To: Membership and Staff

From: Senior Management Team

Forest Fire Risk and Notice of Community Fire Ban

Boozhoo,

This message is to provide the community and staff with an update regarding the ongoing forest fires in the region. There are currently two active forest fires in the region that we are continuing to monitor:

Fire 1 began the afternoon of May 26, located south of Highway 17, south of Crocker's Lake, 5.5 kilometers west of White River. The 105 hectare fire is not under control, but has not advanced. Fire suppression crews remain on site

Fire 2 Wawa 3 began the afternoon of May 27, located within the Kakakiwibik Esker north of Highway 17. The 4800 hectare fire is not under control. The fire is advancing in a North/ Northeast direction.

Jesse Gaudette, Lands & Resources Manager, has met with and is in continual communication with MNRF regarding the fire management plan and any potential adverse impacts to community. At present, there is no immediate risk or danger to the community, although the fire remains not under control. MNRF has dispatched additional crews that are expected to arrive in coming days to assist with firefighting efforts. The Wawa District MNRF has deployed their Integrated Management Team (IMT) and so has the Province of Ontario. There will be extra support and resources deploying today to help combat Fire 2. The IMT teams will be stationed in a remote-style camp located in the town of White River.

Derek Sabourin, Health and Safety Manager, continues to monitor and work with staff regarding the review and proactive response should a community Emergency Response Plan (ERP) need to be activated. Nokiwin Tribal Council Emergency Response Staff are travelling on-site to assist with the proactive review and preparation should the existing or new fires present an emerging risk to community.

As a proactive measure, health staff will be reaching out to identified vulnerable persons with respiratory illness to ensure an expedient response plan is in place should the threat of smoke or fire escalate to a level that requires action. If you, or a family member identifies with respiratory illness, please contact the health centre at (807) 822-2625 to ensure we have your contact information should we be required to take action.

As a proactive measure to ensure we have community resources, including staff available to continue to monitor and respond if our situation escalates, the fish derby has been postponed to the tentative dates of June 15th – 18th, 2023. Further information will be provide as we continue to monitor the ongoing situation.

As there is presently a high to extreme forest fire hazard warning in the region and forecasted thunderstorms could result in potential new fires, please note that there is a community-wide fire restriction in place until further notice. Please refrain from outdoor fires of any kind to conserve the limited resources within the region.

Miigwetch,

Senior Management Team
Donna Sutherland, Joel Merryless, Joe Moses