

For immediate release:

Mountain View County Continues to Assist in Wildfire Emergency Response

July 25, 2024: Mountain View County – Mountain View County continues to actively monitor and respond to an out-of-control wildfire located approximately 20km west of Water Valley, Alberta, within the Municipal District of Bighorn. The Municipal District of Bighorn has issued an Area of Closure, as outlined in the map below, mandating immediate evacuation for all residents within the affected area.

Update 1 – July 24th 2:00 pm: The Calgary Forestry Office has been able to establish that the size of the footprint of the active fire is approximately 73 hectares and has not experienced significant growth since the last update. The wildfire remains out of control at this time. Alberta Wildfire continues to actively fight the fire with both ground forces and air support and will continue to throughout the day. Mountain View County remains outside of the area of concern with no immediate risk to County residents at this time.

Update 2 - July 24th 9:00 pm: The wildfire remains out of control but has not experienced any significant growth since the earlier update. Alberta Wildfire crews deployed air support throughout the day and will look to transition to heavy equipment throughout the night to continue to establish fire guards. Mountain View County remains outside of the area of concern with no immediate risk to County residents at this time. A second wildfire has been identified further west of the existing fire. This wildfire is relatively small and received immediate fire suppression. It is not expected to pose any impact on Mountain View County.

Update 3 – July 25th 2:00 pm: The wildfire remains out of control. Alberta Wildfire has updated the size of the fire to be 110 hectares. Although this appears to be a significant increase from the July 24th estimate of 73 hectares, the new size has resulted from increased mapping and ground truthing of the actual size of the fire from previous estimates. Substantial air supports, paired with ground equipment have continued in the area and have assisted efforts. Mountain View County remains outside of the area of concern with no immediate risk to County residents at this time.

The second wildfire previously identified in “Update 2” has been updated to a “being held” status and remains of no concern to Mountain View County residents.

Reception Centre Closure:

The reception centre previous held in collaboration with the Municipal District of Bighorn at the Water Valley Community Hall will be open tomorrow, July 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Following that time, Mountain View County and the Municipal District of Bighorn will review the necessity for an ongoing Reception Centre. Mountain View County remains committed to providing ongoing communication to residents while the Wildfire remains out of control through the County’s website <https://mountainviewcounty.com/p/md-of-bighorn-wildfire-response> and social media. Further, residents that do not have internet accessibility are encouraged to phone 403-335-3311 if they are interested in updated information.

Mutual Aid Agreement:

Mountain View County maintains a mutual aid agreement with the Municipal District of Bighorn to ensure coordinated response efforts during emergencies. While **there is no current threat to or evacuation order for**

Mountain View County, its residents or businesses, we stand ready to support our neighbours and provide assistance as needed.

Effective Friday, July 26th, Mountain View County is participating in an Emergency Coordination Center with the MD of Bighorn and Alberta Wildfire. This partnership will enable County officials to receive and disseminate timely, relevant information to residents.

Stay Informed:

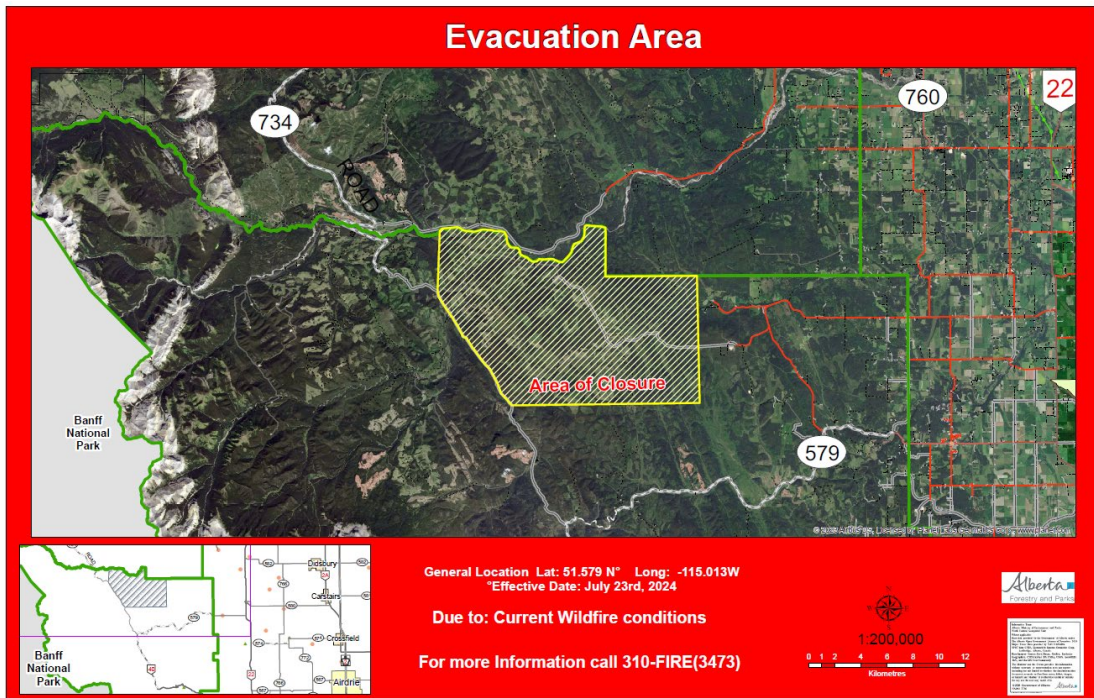
Residents are encouraged to stay tuned to Mountain View County's official communication channels for updates and further instructions. These channels include the County's website, social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and X – formerly known as Twitter), and the Mountain View County Mobile App, available for download on app stores under "Mountain View County."

Contact Information:

For inquiries related to the wildfire emergency, residents can email emergency@mvcounty.com or contact:

- For evacuation assistance: 403-673-3611
- For livestock assistance: 403-493-4821
- For further updates from Mountain View County: 403-335-3311

Area of Closure Map:



Media inquiries may be directed to
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