

Information Release

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For immediate release:

Water Valley Community Hall Reception Centre to Close

July 26, 2024: Mountain View County – Mountain View County wishes to update the public on the current status of the wildfire in the Municipal District (MD) of Bighorn. Although the fire remains classified as out of control by Alberta Wildfire, significant suppression efforts by the MD of Bighorn and other agencies have prevented its growth over the past 48 hours. At this time, the fire poses no risk to Mountain View County residents.

Key Updates:

Fire Status: The wildfire, which started near Water Valley on July 23, 2024, remains classified as out of control. However, thanks to effective suppression efforts, the fire has not expanded in the last 48 hours. Mountain View County residents are not currently at risk and there is no indication that the fire status or risk will increase in the coming days.

Reception Centre Closure: Due to limited new information from Alberta Wildfire and reduced activity at the Reception Centre over the past 48 hours, Mountain View County, in consultation with the MD of Bighorn, has decided to close the Water Valley Community Hall Reception Centre. The Centre, which has been providing support and information to evacuees, will close its doors today, July 26, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Continued Monitoring: Despite the closure of the Reception Centre, Mountain View County will continue to monitor the wildfire closely respecting that the nature of wildfires can be unpredictable. We remain committed to providing timely updates and ensuring that residents have access to the latest information through our website, mobile app, and official social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, and X. For updates, please visit our website at: <u>Mountain View County Wildfire Response</u>.

Acknowledgments: Mountain View County extends its heartfelt appreciation to the MD of Bighorn, Alberta Forestry, and all the dedicated firefighters who have worked tirelessly to manage and suppress the wildfire. Their unwavering commitment, expertise, and bravery have been instrumental in ensuring this wildfire has not increased nor impacted Mountain View County.

What Residents Should Do: Stay Informed: Residents are encouraged to stay updated on any further developments by regularly checking Mountain View County's website, as noted above, our mobile app and our social media channels.

Emergency Information: For any ongoing concerns or assistance related to the wildfire, please contact Mountain View County at <u>emergency@mvcounty.com</u> or call 403-335-3311.

Mountain View County remains committed to the safety and well-being of all its residents. We thank everyone for their cooperation and patience during this challenging time and we will continue to provide updates as needed until the fire is completely extinguished.

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