August 8, 2013

McIvor Lake road wildfire August 7

No one was injured and no private property was damaged when a wildfire burning near McIvor Lake Road on August 7 scorched a patch of forest and rocky outcrop, and closed McIvor Lake Road for approximately two hours.

The fire was contained to an area 30 metres by 60 metres, and because it was about 300 metres from the lake, there is no anticipated impact on water quality in the Campbell River watershed, which is the source of the community's drinking water supply, says Fire Chief Ian Baikie.

"Campbell River Fire Department received a call from the Coastal Fire Centre, at 1:50 p.m.," Baikie says. *"We called in members from both of Campbell River fire stations and requested Oyster River Fire Department to help shuttle water because there are no hydrants nearby."*

Seventeen Campbell River firefighters, two Oyster River firefighters and four Coastal Fire members worked initially with two helicopters and five fire apparatus to extinguisher the wildfire.

Water was pumped from McIvor Lake and shuttled with tenders (trucks with a tank to carry water) from both Campbell River and Oyster River's fire crews.

The fire was northwest of McIvor Lake Road and was extinguished by 5 p.m.

"Campbell River Fire Department members remained on site until 9 p.m. to ensure the fire did not re-ignite," Baikie says.

The cause of the fire is unknown at this time. *"We are investigating this as a human-caused incident,"* the Fire Chief confirms. *"This is a good time to remind people that the forest fire danger rating for our area is now extreme, and great care should be used in forested areas to prevent wildfires."*

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