



BC farmers' markets, farmers and vendors affected by BC forest fires

July 10, 2017.

Hello Members,

Like you, the BCAFM board and staff are following the forest fire emergency across the province. We are now learning from multiple members about farmers' market closures along with farmers, ranchers, food processors and others who are being directly and negatively impacted by the forest fires. Hardships include economic impact on farmers' markets and food producer and food processor livelihoods alike, farm infrastructure and livestock, in addition to the emotional toil from evacuations and other losses as a result of this forest fire emergency.

The community of farmers' markets, farmers, food processors, artisans and all of our loyal customers care deeply about the wellbeing of all of those affected. Our hearts and minds are with you.

We are in the process of reaching out to our membership to gather more information and would appreciate hearing from you. Please contact us at info@bcfarmersmarket.org

1. If your farmers' market is closed, has moved location or changed operating hours due to the forest fires, please send us an email. This will help us understand the scope of impact from forest fires among our members.
2. Vendors of all kinds are being negatively affected, both personally and economically. We encourage farmers' markets outside of forest fire areas to open their hearts and markets and offer temporary space to vendors who have been evacuated and displaced to other communities this season. A soggy spring and now forest fires have made this a challenging farmers' market season. Let's continue to support each other wherever possible. The BCAFM Google Group bcafm@googlegroups.com is a good place for markets to let people know about market space and others to identify displaced vendors who may be looking for other markets to sell at +++
3. Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program participants and community partners are being evacuated and displaced to other areas. As always, coupons are transferable and redeemable at all participating farmers' markets. With the current situation, if you have additional coupon program needs and questions

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please contact Peter or Melissa at nutrition@bcfarmersmarket.org

4. The BCAFM has already contacted the Minister of Agriculture to make the government aware of the impact of forest fires on farmers' markets, farmers, ranchers, processors and others in affected areas.

5. Useful Links

- **Local Regional Districts:** Please contact your local government (eg; regional districts) for all support information related to forest fires in your area. Please contact the 'Emergency Operations Centre' at your local government for agricultural/livestock related support.
- **Current Wildfire Situation:**
Web: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/wildfire-situation
Facebook: [facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo](https://www.facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo)
Twitter: [@BCGovFireInfo](https://twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo)
Twitter: [@EmergencyInfoBC](https://twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC)

Red Cross: www.redcross.ca

Livestock (of all kinds) Emergency:

www.cattlemen.bc.ca

<https://bcfirerescue.usahidi.io/views/map>

**be careful to watch for livestock on roads escaping fire zones*

Air BnB Emergency Accommodations: www.airbnb.ca/disaster/bcwildfires

(for those looking for free accommodations + people who can offer free accommodations)

6. As we gather more information and determine what is needed and where, BCAFM will be better informed to support fundraising efforts related to the forest fires.

Please be in touch with the BCAFM as we work together to support our farmers' market community.

Sincerely,

Heather O'Hara
BCAFM Executive Director

Wylie Bystedt
BCAFM Board President

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