

From: **PREM VCO Stakeholders PREM:EX** <VCO.Stakeholders@gov.bc.ca>

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Subject: Update: Province prioritizes fuel for essential vehicles, introduces travel restrictions

Hello,

This afternoon Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth announced new provincial measures to restrict non-essential travel to-and-from impacted areas in BC and to ensure fuel (gas and diesel) is prioritized for essential vehicles in certain regions, while still being available to British Columbians.

For full details on these measures: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EMBC0073-002212>

Due to weather related impacts, there is a reduced but steady supply of gasoline. We are working with the Federal government and our partners in the U.S. to find alternative ways of sourcing and bringing fuel to B.C. While we work to get back to normal, the priority is for emergency and commercial vehicles to carry out their activities. Minister Farnworth has issued two new orders using the powers of the Emergency Program Act.

The first is a temporary order to ensure fuel remains available for essential vehicles in affected areas of the province. This order, effective immediately, until Dec. 1, 2021, applies to all fuel suppliers in the Lower Mainland-to-Hope region, the Sea-to-Sky region, Sunshine Coast, the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island.

Non-essential vehicles and the general public in these regions will be limited to 30 litres per fill up. Under the order, gas stations will be required to ensure their reserves last during this time. To help ease the impact, we're asking people in impacted regions to use transit, carpool, walk or find other modes of transportation.

The second order, effective today, prohibits nonessential travel along the most severely affected routes:

- **Highway 99:** from the junction of Highway 99 and Lillooet River Road to the BC Hydro Seton Lake Campsite access in Lillooet. Only passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles up to 14,500 kilograms will be permitted.
- **Highway 3:** from the junction of Highway 5 and Highway 3 in Hope to the west entrance to Princeton from Highway 3.
- **Highway 7:** from the junction of Highway 7 and Highway 9 in Agassiz to the junction of Highway 7 and Highway 1 in Hope.

[For a list of travel that is considered essential and permitted on these routes please see here](#)

As roadwork continues, the backlog on travel will be eased. If you don't need to travel, stay at home. Help keep the roads clear for emergency personnel and commercial traffic. If you only need a quarter tank leave the rest for another British Columbian. Please follow pilot cars, ensure you have proper winter tires, and follow all signage along these routes.

The last week has been incredibly difficult for people in British Columbia and our hearts go out to everyone who has been affected by this disaster. We are working day and night to get people to safety and to provide the support they need.

Here are some key links for the coming days:

- Before travelling, check road closures, re-openings and the status of repairs at [DriveBC.ca](https://drivebc.ca)
- Disaster financial assistance is available for those affected by flooding: [See more info here](#)
- See all current evacuation orders, alerts and list of reception centres at [Emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca](https://emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca)
- People who have evacuated and need assistance should register with [Emergency Support Services](#)
- To donate funds or supplies to relief efforts, please contact donations@gov.bc.ca

What we have seen during this unprecedented disaster and throughout the past few years with COVID-19 is that when British Columbians support each another, we are able to get through challenging times. As you share this information with your networks, we ask that you encourage everyone to abide by these new emergency measures to help us come together to tackle the challenges facing our communities.

Thank you,
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