

Yellowknife wildfire: traffic clogs road out of town as residents race to evacuate

More than 20,000 residents given until noon on Friday to leave home in face of advancing wildfire that could arrive by weekend

Long lines of traffic have clogged the only road out of the Canadian city of Yellowknife, after authorities ordered the first ever evacuation of a capital in the face of an advancing wildfire.

More than 20,000 residents – the entire population – have been given until noon on Friday to leave their homes, as water bombers flew throughout the night and authorities warned that the fire could reach the city by the weekend.

Evacuation flights are also due to begin on Thursday afternoon, and will continue until the entire population has safely left the city, said the Yellowknife mayor, Rebecca Alty. She warned residents to bring water and food with them to the city's airport as they could face long waits to get on a flight.

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Source:

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