



FIRE NAME
K21001

FIRE SIZE:
44,489 hectares (estimated)

FIRE STATUS:
Out of Control

CONDITIONS:

In the past 72-hours, active fire behaviour has been observed on the southwest and southeast flanks. Due to heavy smoke in the area, officers were previously unable to provide an updated size. Last night visibility improved enough for aircraft to assess the new perimeter. The Sparks Lake wildfire is now estimated to be 44,894 hectares in size.

Sunny today with widespread smoke, temperatures up to 29 C, and relative humidity down to 22%. Winds from the southwest 10 to 15 increasing to southwest 15 to 25 by the afternoon.

OBJECTIVES:

Heavy equipment is working to establish an anchor point on Tranquille-Criss Creek Road for crews to progressively patrol and mop-up heading northeast along the control line. Crews continue to monitor and patrol the burn line south of Red Lake to South Carabine Hill. Heavy equipment is continuing to prepare the Sabiston Forest Service Road for planning ignitions set to occur in the area. Crews continue to secure the line on the east side of the Skeetchestn community at the 16.5-kilometre mark and monitor the Deadman Valley bottom. Crews are assessing the terrain north of the Deadman Valley to identify feasible ground for control lines.

STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

Five SPU crews (total 27 personnel), ten Skeetchestn Fire Department firefighters and water tender, four Structure Protection Unit Trailers, two Structural Protection Specialists, and water tenders with operators. Structure protection personnel and crews are continuing to work in the Red Lake area, northeast of the Red Lake area, and in the Skeetchestn community to apply FireSmart principles and triage communities to determine future equipment requirements should the fire expand. Structure protection crews are also working to complete a fuel free guard around the cell tower infrastructure east of the Deadman-Vidette Road.

RESOURCES:

Firefighters – 111 **Support Staff** – 131
Heavy Equipment - 50
Helicopters – 11 assigned

EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) has issued Evacuation Orders for a total of 289 properties. An additional 298 properties remain on Evacuation Alert. More information is available here: [Thompson- Nicola Regional District](#).

The Chief and Council of the [Skeetchestn](#) Indian Band have implemented an Evacuation Order for their community as of 10 pm, July 2, 2021.

K521433:

The Sparks Lake Incident Management Team is also supporting K21433—5 miles NE of Criss Creek 46 km northwest of Kamloops, which is estimated to be 132 hectares and remains classified as Out of Control.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sparks Lake Information Section

Telephone: 778-364-1265 | Email: BCWS.SparksLakeInfo@gov.bc.ca





FORECAST:

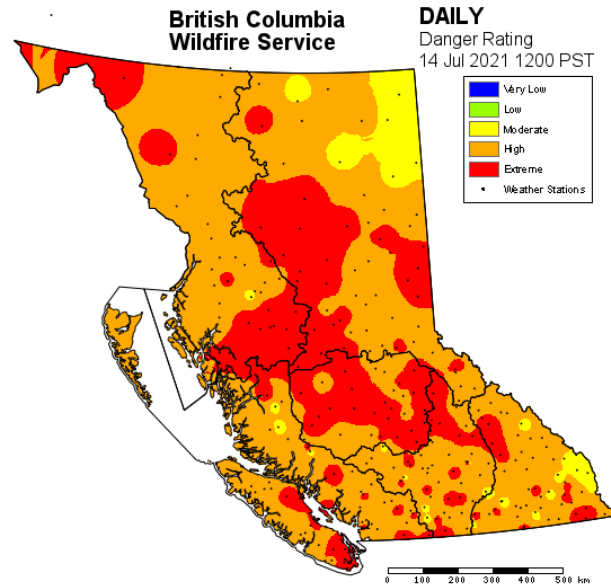
Issued: July 14, 2021 for July 15, 2021

TODAY: Sunny with widespread smoke. High temperature of 29 C and minimum relative humidity of 22%. Winds light west in the morning increasing to southwest 10-15 km/h near noon and southwest gusting 25 in the afternoon. Overnight recoveries are improving with temperature lows down into the high teens.

FRIDAY: The region will be in a dry southwest aloft and an upper low in the Gulf of Alaska will start dropping down the coast. This will allow temperatures to gradually cool by a degree or two a day.

OUTLOOK: The upper low is expected to remain off the north coast, but it will spit a trough east on Friday night brushing the northern area of the Kamloops region with possible showers or thundershowers in the north Thompson.

FIRE DANGER RATING



YOUNG LAKE WILDFIRE (C41097)

Four fires (C41097, C41412, C41560, and C41610) burning approximately 35 kilometres southeast of 70 Mile House have burned into one fire. Their combined size is estimated to be 680 hectares. Increased fire behaviour has been observed in the past 24 -hours. On July 14, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) issued an Evacuation Orders for a total of 117 properties and an additional 170 properties remain on Evacuation Alert. More information is available here: [Thompson- Nicola Regional District](https://www.thompson-nicola.ca/2021/07/14/evacuation-orders-issued-for-properties-affected-by-young-lake-wildfire/).

The Incident Management Team on the Sparks Lake Wildfire is resourcing the Young Lake wildfire as needed and BC Wildfire Services officers are monitoring the situation daily. This decision is based on a variety of factors including but not limited to, challenges to crew safety and distance from communities.

As of July 15, the Young Lake wildfire will be a Fire of Note. For more information, visit the Young Lake Fire of Note page: <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp?>



Increased fire activity on the Young Lake Wildfire (C41097) has been observed over the past 24-hours.

Spot a wildfire, smoke or illegal fire activity? Call 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on your cellphone.



PLANNED IGNITIONS:

The BC Wildfire Service is preparing to conduct planned ignitions on the Sparks Lake wildfire to help gain containment on the southeast perimeter. If conditions on-site are favourable, planned ignition could begin as early as Saturday, July 17, 2021.

The southeast portion of the fire has posed containment challenges for crews. Given the terrain and aggressive fire behaviour, planned ignitions are the most effective and safest containment tactic to use in this area of the fire. Over the past 72-hours, heavy equipment and crews have been working to complete and prepare the containment line along the Sabiston Forest Service Road.

The objective of the planned ignition is to remove unburned fuels between the current fire perimeter and these pre-determined containment lines. This tactic will bring the fire's edge down to terrain where ground crews can safely deliver water directly to the fire's edge. Air support will be utilized before, during, and after the ignitions to reinforce containment lines. Crews and equipment will be actively patrolling the containment line to ensure the fire stays within pre-determined boundaries. Water skimmers will be available throughout the course of the planned ignitions should they be required.

AREA RESTRICTION ORDER:

The Area Restriction Order that the BC Wildfire Service implemented at noon on July 1, 2021 in the vicinity of the Sparks Lake wildfire remains in place. The size of the area restriction reflects the continued need to protect the public in areas where there are ongoing fire suppression activities. This order will remain in place until noon on October 15, 2021 or until it is rescinded.



BC Wildfire Service Crews and several contractors are working hard on the Sparks Lake Fire and rely heavily on radio communication to travel the roads safely. The Area Restriction Order helps to keep all personnel safe by limiting the number of vehicles travelling on roads without radio communication.

Under this Order and section 11(2) of the Wildfire Act, a person must not remain in or enter the restricted area without the prior written authorization of an official, unless the person enters the area only in the course of:

- A) Travelling to or from his or her principle residence, that is not under an evacuation order;
- B) Travelling to or from private or leased property for the purposes of accessing a secondary residence or recreational property, that is not under an evacuation order;
- C) Travelling as a person acting in an official capacity;
- D) Travelling for the purpose of supporting wildfire suppression activities;
- E) Using a highway as defined in the *Highway Act*;
- F) Engaging in a commercial activity within the regular course of the person's business or employment;
- G) Participating in a commercial activity that a person described in (F) provides or,
- H) Engaging and/or participating in agricultural activities pertaining to livestock or agriculture management or private or leased property.

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