



SPARKS LAKE
(K21001)

FIRE SIZE:
45,167 hectares (estimated)

FIRE STATUS:
Out of Control

CONDITIONS:

Yesterday, no significant fire growth was seen on the Sparks Lake wildfire. Today, fire activity is expected to be more active today in the Gisborne Lake/Criss Creek area on the northeast flank. Areas in the north continue to display high fire activity. BC Wildfire Service will continue to monitor threat to structures and will activate already set structure protection systems as required. Some southern winds, 10 to 20 km/hr with gusts up to 30 km/hr are expected today.

OBJECTIVES:

Yesterday, July 16, small hand ignitions southeast of Sabiston Lake helped to bring the fire closer to containment lines in that area. Crews are continuing to prepare the Wadley Hill area for a low intensity planned ignition operation. If conditions on-site are favourable, planned ignitions in the Wadley Hill area could begin as early as today, July 17, 2021. Given the terrain in this area, planned ignitions are the most effective and safest containment tactic to bring the fire down to pre-determined boundaries where crews can deliver water directly to the fire's edge. Crews will be working today to secure the east flank from Tranquille-Criss Creek Road to Frog Lake, and will be monitoring South Carbine Hill to extinguish any excursions.

Heavy equipment is continuing to prepare the Sabiston Forest Service Road for planning ignitions set to occur in the in the Sabiston Lake/Mount Uren area to help gain containment on the lower southeastern perimeter. If conditions on-site are favourable, planned ignition in this area could begin as early as today, July 17, 2021. Crews are working east of Sabiston Lake to establish a water delivery system in the area and are actioning any excursions. Crews continue to monitor the valley bottom at Deadman and will be assessing terrain in the north of Deadman for equipment control lines.

STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

Three SPU crews (total 17 personnel), ten Skeetchestn Fire Department firefighters and water tender, four Structure Protection Unit Trailers, three Structural Protection Specialists, and additional water tenders with operators. Structure protection personnel and crews are continuing to work in the Red Lake area, northeast of the Red Lake area, north of Gisborne Lake, and in the Skeetchestn community to apply FireSmart principles and triage communities to determine future equipment requirements should the fire expand.

RESOURCES:

Firefighters – 125
Heavy Equipment - 51
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 141 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 16, 2021 for July 17, 2021

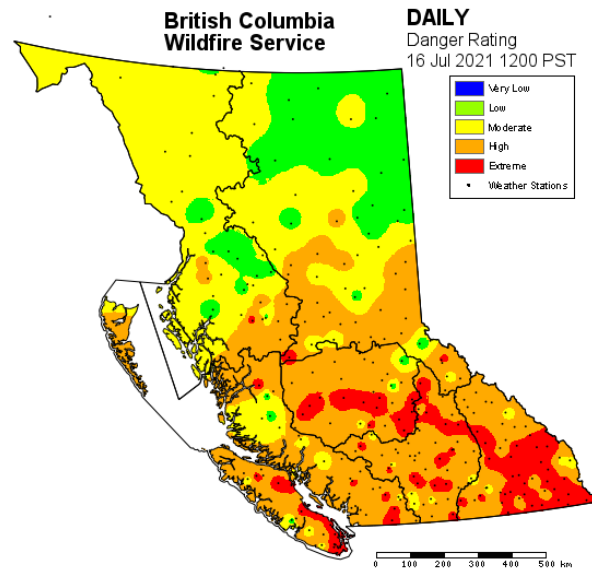
TODAY: Variable cloud with smoke today. A high of 24 degrees and minimum relative humidity of 29%. Southern winds, 10 to 20 km/hr with gusts up to 30 km/hr are expected today.

OUTLOOK: The upper low will maintain its position near Haida Gwaii until Tuesday and may start to move inland and open into an upper trough Wednesday. Sunday and Monday will be dry with the possibility of subtropical moisture and thunderstorms with dry lightning Monday night. The flow shifts back to southwest on Tuesday and the airmass will be more stable. Temperatures are expected to cool slightly by Tuesday with a high of 24 degrees and light to moderate winds.



The Sparks Lake Wildfire didn't see any significant growth yesterday, however there was some increased fire activity in the Gisborne and Criss Creek area on the eastern flank.

FIRE DANGER RATING



YOUNG LAKE WILDFIRE (C41097)

The Young Lake wildfire is estimated to be 846 hectares in size. Yesterday, July 16, minimal fire growth was observed to the west. Predominant fire growth was isolated to the south. 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](#).

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.

In response to current conditions, the BC Wildfire Service will continue to prioritize its efforts to protect our most valuable assets. The top priority is always human life and safety, the second priority is property, the third priority is the protection of areas with high environmental values (community watersheds, habitat for species at risk, etc.), and the fourth priority is resource values (timber harvesting sites, resource extraction sites, etc.)

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



PLANNED IGNITIONS:

WADLEY HILL PLANNED IGNITION:

Crews are preparing the Wadley Hill area for a low intensity planned ignition operation. If conditions on-site are favourable, planned ignitions in the Wadley Hill area could begin as early as today, July 17, 2021 and some increased smoke may be seen in the area. Given the terrain in this area, planned ignitions are the most effective and safest containment tactic to bring the fire down to pre-determined boundaries in this area. The objective of the planned ignition is to remove unburned fuels between the current fire perimeter and pre-determined containment lines where crews can deliver water directly to the fire's edge.

Plastic Sphere Dispensers (PSD) will be used at the top of Wadley Hill to carry out most of the planned ignitions. PSDs accurately deploy golf-ball sized plastic spheres onto the landscape. Through a chemical reaction, the spheres ignite shortly after they reach the forest floor. This technique allows our personnel to accurately and gently ignite fuels to burn the fire perimeter down to the containment lines. Crews will then use hand ignitions to clean up the fire's edge once the fire is brought down to these pre-determined boundaries.

Structure protection units have been set up on structures within proximity and sprinklers will be turned on for the duration of the ignitions. Air support will be utilized before, during and after the ignitions, to reinforce containment lines as required.

SABISTAN LAKE PLANNED IGNITION:

If conditions on-site are favourable, planned ignition in the Sabiston Lake area could begin as early as Saturday, July 17, 2021. Crews are working east of Sabiston Lake to establish a water delivery system in the area and heavy equipment is continuing to establish and reinforce control lines. More information will be provided before ignitions occur.

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.

This order applies to Crown Land within the geographic boundaries as outlined on the [Sparks Lake Wildfire Area Restriction Order Map](#). The Area Restriction Order is in place to keep our first responders, and all British Columbians safe. Please do your part to ensure the safety of your community and those you are visiting. If you are engaging in commercial activity within the regular course of your business or employment, please ensure those visiting the area are made aware of this Area Restriction Order, its boundaries, and

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY:

Inquiries about compensation for fire suppression damage to private property should be emailed to BCWSClaims@gov.bc.ca.

If you do not have access to email, please direct inquiries to:

"Attention Claims" - BC Wildfire Service, Victoria HQ
2957 Jutland Road
PO Box 9502 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC, V8W 9C1, CANADA