



**SPARKS LAKE
(K21001)**

FIRE SIZE:
45,167 hectares (estimated)

FIRE STATUS:
Out of Control

CONDITIONS:

Yesterday, July 17, low intensity planned ignition operations on Wadley Hill helped to secure containment lines in this area of the fire. Today, additional planned ignitions will occur in this area to fully secure the containment lines in the Red Lake area.

OBJECTIVES:

Heavy equipment is continuing to prepare the Sabiston Forest Service Road for planned ignitions set to occur in the in the Sabiston Lake/Mount Uren area to help gain containment on the lower southeastern perimeter. Fire Behaviour Analysts and Ignition Specialists develop an analysis of the planned ignition, and consider many factors including, but not limited to, terrain, fuel type, wind speed and direction, temperatures, and relative humidities. Planned ignitions will occur as soon as conditions on-site are favourable.

East of Sabiston Lake, crews are working 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 north of Deadman for equipment control line feasibility.

WADLEY HILL PLANNED IGNITION:

Increased smoke may be seen in the Red Lake area as a result of the Wadley Hill planned ignitions. 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. Air support will be utilized before, during and after the ignitions, to reinforce containment lines, as required.



Fire activity seen in the Gisborne area yesterday, during planned ignition operations on the Sparks Lake Wildfire.

RESOURCES:

Firefighters – 112

Heavy Equipment - 52

Helicopters – 12 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](https://www.tnrd.ca/).

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

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.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sparks Lake Information Section

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





FORECAST:

Issued: July 17, 2021 for July 18, 2021

TODAY: Visibility may be reduced today, especially in low areas where smoke may linger. Expect cloudy periods throughout the day with temperature highs of 31 degrees and relative humidity down to 22%. This afternoon, fire behaviour will likely increase as temperatures rise and light winds pick up from the southwest 5 to 15 km/hr.

OUTLOOK: There will be a risk of thunderstorms with dry lightning on Monday and Tuesday. Temperatures will stay in the low 30's on Monday with light southwest winds. Tuesday will cool slightly to a temperature high of 28 degrees with light winds from the south.

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 apply FireSmart principles and triage communities in the Red Lake, North Gisborne and Vidette areas. Structure protection units have been set up on structures within proximity and sprinklers will be turned on for the duration of the ignitions.

YOUNG LAKE WILDFIRE (C41097)

The Young Lake wildfire is estimated to be 846 hectares in size. Yesterday, July 17, minimal fire growth was observed to the west. Predominant fire growth was isolated to the south. On July 15, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) issued an Evacuation Orders for a total of 56 properties. An additional 231 properties in the area remain on Evacuation Alert. More information is available here: [Thompson- Nicola Regional District](#).

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.)

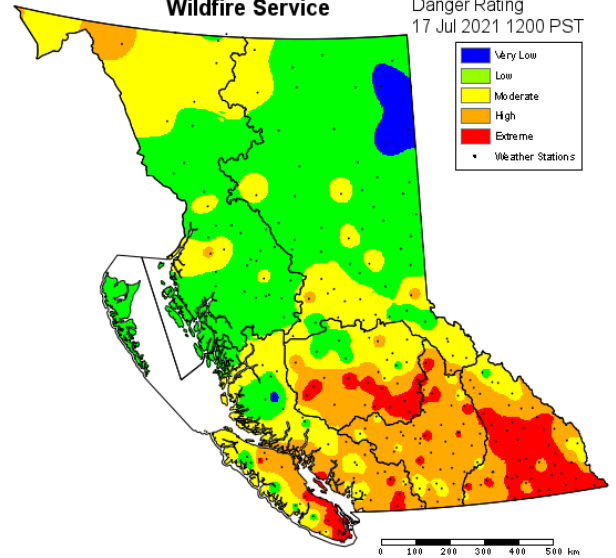
K521433

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.

FIRE DANGER RATING

British Columbia
Wildfire Service

DAILY
Danger Rating
17 Jul 2021 1200 PST



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



FIRECAMP:

The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) has set up a fire camp in Kamloops to house approximately 150 firefighters from the Sparks Lake and Embleton Mountain wildfires.

The BCWS sets camps up where they are needed to house and feed firefighting personnel and support staff through the duration of an incident. The need for a fire camp can last anywhere from two weeks to several months. The fire camp provides sleeping trailers, kitchen facilities, wash cars, warehouses and incident management offices.

New hygiene equipment such as handwashing stations are available in fire camps, and additional personal protective equipment and disinfection products are available for fire crews.

BCWS would like to thank the public for their on-going support during this challenging and busy fire season. Please respect our firefighters who are calling this fire camp their home, and give them privacy while they get their much needed rest.

KAMLOOPS FIRE CENTRE PRIORITIZATION:

There are currently 112 active fires in the Kamloops Fire Centre. The hot and dry weather throughout the region along with recent thunderstorms, have led to this heightened fire activity the area is experiencing. These conditions are currently challenging available firefighting resources within British Columbia. The rest of Canada and many areas in the United States are facing similarly challenging conditions. This means that some of the provinces and countries that would normally help out during B.C.'s fire season are currently busy fighting their own wildfires and are unable to assist as much as they could under different circumstances. International support for B.C.'s firefighting efforts is also limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic and global travel restrictions. With so many new fires and only so many resources available, the BC Wildfire Service is having to prioritize fires.

The BC Wildfire Service prioritizes its response to wildfires to help 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.)
- The fourth priority is resource values (timber harvesting sites, resource extraction sites, etc.)

Given that current fire behaviour is very aggressive, initial attacks on new fire starts remains the priority focus for our ground and air crews. The BC Wildfire Service is actively collaborating with its forest industry partners, First Nations, local fire departments and other groups (such as the B.C. Cattleman's Association) for additional resources and equipment.