

EMBLETON MOUNTAIN WILDFIRE PLANNED IGNITION OPERATIONS

Consistently, winds on-site have been from the south, southwest. As a result, predominant growth has been to the northeast and east where the fire perimeter has successfully reached the Lower Louis Creek Road. Crews are working to establish a water delivery system along the northeastern containment line and are now working towards completing a 100 foot blackline along Lower Louis Creek Road.

On the south flank, where terrain is inoperable for personnel to work, the fire is continuing to slowly creep downhill. With winds pushing north, northeast, fire spread is very low to moderate. Crews have established a fuel free buffer zone, southwest of the fire perimeter, that ties into machine guard south of the fire perimeter. Efforts are now focused on bringing the remaining perimeter down to these pre-determined containment lines to the south and to the west of the fire perimeter.

To bring the fire perimeter downslope in a more timely manner, operations is planning to conduct low-intensity planned ignition operation as early as tomorrow, July 19, 2021. Planned ignitions will only occur if conditions on-site are favourable. The objective of these planned ignitions is to help bring the fire downslope where crews can safely and effectively deliver water directly to the fire's edge. Ignition Specialists and Fire Behaviour Analysts consider many factors, including, but not limited to, terrain, fuel type, wind speed and direction, temperatures, and relative humidities before planned ignitions take place.

Given the terrain in this area, conducting these planned ignitions will be the most effective way to bring the fire down to pre-determined boundaries in a much timelier manner than waiting for the fire to backdown the slope on its own.

Plastic Sphere Dispensers (PSD) will be used to carry out the aerial ignitions where terrain is too steep for crews to work. 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 ignite fuels accurately and gently.



Air support will be utilized before, during and after the ignitions, to reinforce containment lines as required.



Fuel free buffer zone will support containment in areas where heavy equipment is unable to operate.

Once the fire perimeter makes it down to workable ground for crews, hand ignitions will be used to bring the fire all the way down to containment lines where crews will be ready with water delivery systems to deliver water directly to the fire's edge.

These planned ignitions will be carried out in pre-determined portions. Manageable areas of ground fuel will be ignited over several hours/days, as required, in order to ensure low-intensity spread. This technique encourages the fire down the mountain at a manageable rate of spread.

Air support will be utilized before, during and after the ignitions, to reinforce containment lines as required. Crews will be patrolling the perimeter to ensure the fire does not cross over pre-established containment lines.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information about the planned ignition operations, please contact:

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