BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

July 20, 2021

WILDFIRE UPDATE

EMBLETON MOUNTAIN	FIRE SIZE:	FIRE STATUS:
(K21644)	920 hectares (estimated)	Out of Control

RESOURCES:

- 20 firefighters (one 20-person unit crews)
- Two structure protection crews (eleven total personnel)
- Three helicopter (additional air support will be utilized, as required)
- Ten pieces of heavy equipment
- Sun Peaks Fire Rescue (six total personnel, three of which remained on-site overnight)
- Five danger tree fallers/assessors

UPDATES:

Yesterday, a 20-person unit crew completed work on a hand guard in steep terrain west of the fire perimeter to tie into the fuel free buffer zone to the southwest. Last night, an unexpected wind shift influenced fire behaviour and drove the fire south. Two additional 20-person unit crews, three helicopters and airtankers responded. Crews and heavy equipment remained on-site overnight. Due to conditions on-site yesterday, crews did not complete any significant amount of hand ignitions.

Yesterday, an unexpected wind shift influenced fire behaviour and drove the fire south—July 19, 2021.

Driven by winds, the fire perimeter reached the east, southeast and south control lines. As a result, planned ignition operations will no longer be required. On-site today, crews are being assisted by three helicopters to contain all excursions that breached these control lines.

Crews are continuing to build and secure the fuel free buffer zone on the southwest to tie into the machine guard to the south. Hand guards and fuel free buffer zones are used as control lines in areas where heavy equipment is unable to operate. A hand guard alone will not secure a fire perimeter until the width of the control line is increased. To increase the width of the hand guard, so that the fire does not overcome this control line, crews used a technique called blacklining. Blacklining is a frequently used technique where ground crews ignite fuels along the hand guard to extend the amount of non-combustible fuels ahead of the main fire. Crews create black lines using hand ignitions.

The machine guard in the northeast, south of the McClure switchbacks, has been completed and crews are working to establish a water delivery system and hose lay along this control line. Danger tree assessors/fallers are continuing to work along this control line to remove danger trees and ensure crew safety.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Embleton Mountain Information Section

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

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FORECAST:

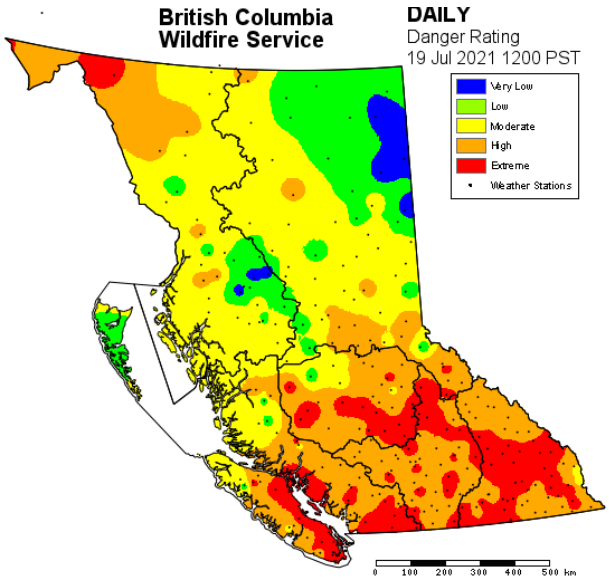
Issued: July 19, 2021 for July 20, 2021

TODAY: Mainly sunny with high temperatures of 27 degrees and minimum relative humidity of 18%. Winds will be south-southwest, 10 to 20 km/hr with gusts up to 30 km/hr.

TUESDAY: Tomorrow conditions will remain mainly sunny with high temperatures of 24 degrees and minimum relative humidity of 19%. Winds will be south-southwest, 15 to 25 km/hr with gusts up to 40 km/hr.

OUTLOOK: An upper ridge will begin building Thursday. Temperatures will reach near 23 degrees and light winds are expected. The ridge moves over the region Friday with light south winds and temperatures near 26 degrees.

FIRE DANGER RATING:



STRUCTURE PROTECTION

Structure protection personnel are continuing to monitor the structure protection units that have been set-up north of Heffley-Louis Creek Road. Structure protection systems in place will be active as required.

ROAD CLOSURE:

The Heffley-Louis Creek Road is only open to residents, employees, and property owners traveling to or from properties that are not under evacuation order. The Evacuation Order for 132 properties in Electoral Area "P" (Rivers and Peaks), implemented by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District remains in place. If travelling through this area please ensure the safety of first responders by following all posted speeds. Interference from members of the public can halt suppression efforts, and pose safety risks both to the public and to responders who are working on this fire.

EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District has issued an Evacuation Order for 132 properties and an Alert for 170 properties. On July 19, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District issued an Evacuation Order for an additional 7 addressed properties in Electoral Area "P" (Rivers and the Peaks). Please contact the Thompson-Nicola Regional District for more information https://www.tnrd.ca/.

The Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality has issued an Evacuation Alert for all properties within the Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality. For more information, please visit http://sunpeaksmunicipality.ca/.

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

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REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS:

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District has chosen Voyent Alert! to serve the region to provide residents with critical emergency information. Voyent Alert! is a multi-purpose communication service used to send alerts to residents, businesses, and visitors during critical events like fires or floods as well as for relevant day-to-day communications. Registration is FREE, simple and totally anonymous. For mobile app alerts, download and install the *Voyent Alert!* app from the Apple or Google Play stores For email, text message, or voice call alerts: https://register.voyent-alert.com

Personalized Communications: Voyent Alert! provides informative communications. Critical information such as the distance and direction from an incident, time of intercept and preferred evacuation routes from your tracked locations.

Track Multiple Locations: Voyent Alert! allows you to create and track multiple locations such as “Kids School” or “Mom’s House”. Any event or communication related to your tracked locations will be forwarded to you along your preferred communication channel.

No Message Fatigue: Voyent Alert’s smart alerting capabilities ensure that you will only get notified when a communication is relevant to you or one of the locations you are tracking.

Communications Your Way: Receive alerts over a wide variety of communication channels including mobile apps, text/SMS alerting, email or voice calling You can register for all or one of them.

Privacy is Paramount: Registration is anonymous, and no information volunteered or derived is shared or used for marketing or data harvesting purposes. Locational information from your tracked locations is only used to determine its proximity to an alert event and to provide critical context within the communications (such as distance and direction).

Leaving is Easy: Both mobile applications and web-based accounts provide access to an unsubscribe feature accessed via the menu icon on the top right of the screen/page. If the service isn’t working out simply click on “Unsubscribe” button.

See the full release at: https://www.tnrd.ca/services/emergency-services/emergency-alerts/

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