BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

July 24, 2021

# WILDFIRE UPDATE

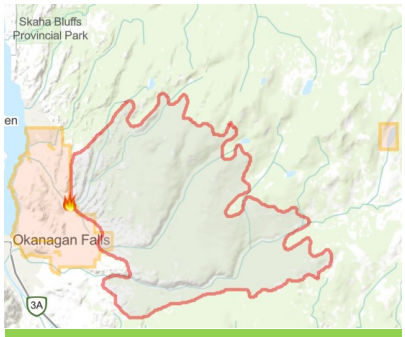
| 71W22KC - Okanagan Complex | **FIRE SIZE:**<br>Thomas Creek (K51794): 6958 ha (estimate)<br>Brenda Creek (K51924): 662 ha (estimate)<br>White Rock Lake (K61844) 8702(estimate) | **FIRE STATUS:**<br>Out of Control |
|---|---|---|

## THOMAS CREEK WILDFIRE (K51794)

This fire was first discovered on Sunday, July 11, 2021 and is approximately 5 kilometres northeast of Okanagan Falls.

### CONDITIONS:

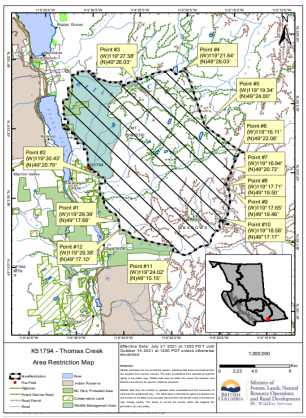
Fire behaviour is quiet again this morning.
Yesterday there was minimal fire growth. The most active part of the fire continues to be the north flank, in heavier timber. The fire has now burned into the area of the Christie Mountain Fire, which may result in decreased fire behavior in that area due to a reduction in available fuel.
Temperatures will be warmer in the coming days which may result in increased fire activity. Winds will be calmer, which could cause poor venting, smokey skies and reduced visibility for aircraft.




Source: BC Wildfire Dashboard

### OBJECTIVES:

Crews and equipment will be working in the Christie Mountain area in the north to create guard lines using existing roads, old fire guards, and other natural features. Crews to continue making steady progress towards containment on the west flank, and may begin to demobilize equipment in this area as the risk is reduced in coming days.
Heavy equipment will be used to build contingency guard lines to the east of the fire.




Crews made good progress yesterday in securing and protecting the 201 road between 7 and 9 kilometres. They will continue to work westward tomorrow.

This fire is being managed by a BC Wildfire Service incident management team as part of the Okanagan Complex. Aircraft and other resources may be reallocated from day to day within the complex as priorities shift.

### AREA RESTRICTION:

In the interest of public and responder safety, a new Area Restriction was implemented for the Thomas Creek Wildfire area on July 21, 2021 @ noon. More information is available, including a map at: www.bcwildfire.bc.ca

### RESOURCES:

**Firefighters** – 45
**Heavy Equipment** - 14
**Helicopters** – 5 assigned

### EVACUATION ALERTS & ORDERS:

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has issued an Evacuation Alert for 704 properties in Electoral Area "D." More information is available here: https://www.rdos.bc.ca/

### WEATHER SUMMARY (K51794)

**Saturday:** Mainly sunny. Max. temperature 30 C. Min. RH 15%. Winds west 10km/hr with occasional gust to 25 in the afternoon.

**Outlook:** Sunday and Monday an upper ridge begins to drift eastward but the flow aloft remains dry so expect sunny skies with max. temperatures in the low 30s and RH's dropping into the upper teens both days. Winds continue to be relatively light with brief afternoon gustiness.

## ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

**71W22KC - Okanagan Complex Information Section**
**Telephone:** 250-230-3670 | **Email:** BCWS.Okanagan.Complex.Info@gov.bc.ca

**www.bcwildfire.ca** BC Forest Fire Info @BCGovFireInfo **www.firesmartbc.ca**

BC Wildfire Service

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## BRENDA CREEK WILDFIRE (K51924)

This fire was first discovered on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 and is an interface fire.

### CONDITIONS:

Fire behaviour was relatively calm yesterday. The most active portion of the fire was near the southwest flank where Rank 3 fire behaviour threatened the powerline again. Overall fire growth was minimal. Temperatures will be warmer in the coming days which may result in increased fire activity. Winds will be calmer, which may result in poor venting, smokey skies and reduced visibility for aircraft.

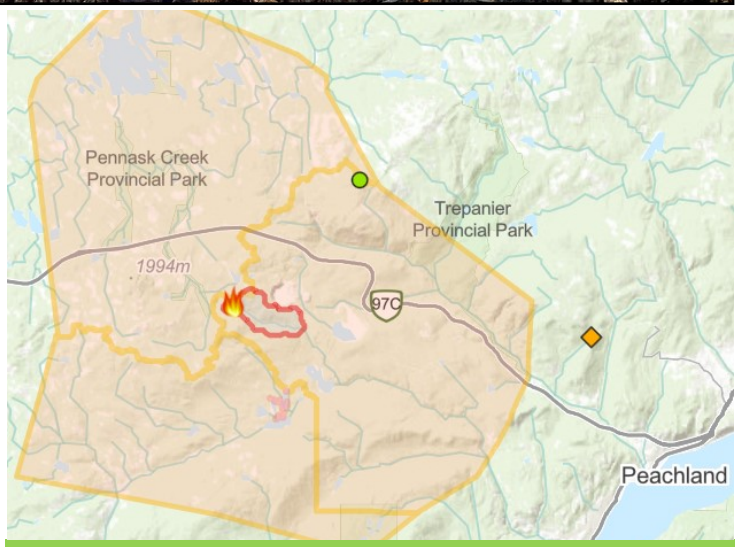
### OBJECTIVES:

Staff are working to identify and build contingency lines on active flanks of the fire. Protection of life and property is the priority.
Crews continue to reinforce sections of guard line on the north west corner of the fire by burning off the fuel between the guard and the fire with small, hand ignition operations.
Helicopters were used to bucket water on to hotspots today, drawing form nearby lakes. This effort will continue tomorrow.
Today crews will continue with mop up along the transmission line if conditions allow.
A high-volume water delivery system is now in place to protect the section of the transmission line within the fire perimeter. This delivery system consists of a 4-inch hose line that supplies a series of larger sprinklers. A specialized high-volume pump supplies water to the line, which can be turned on quickly if the threat to the transmission line increases due to increased fire activity. This water line has been instrumental in the protection of the transmission line, which remains operational.
4 firefighters and 3 support staff remained on site last night to monitor the fire and protect high value features.

### STRUCTURAL PROTECTION:

Brenda Creek Fire (K51924) on July 23 : crews made progress containing escapes from previous days.

Remains in place on high value resources with 1 task force leader, 1 structure protection unit (5 crew), 2 high-volume water delivery units, with 1 on homes and 1 on the powerline (3 crew) and 1 structure protection trailer are on site. They are supported by 16 firefighters from 4 different local fire departments, who are making good progress on extinguishing fire along the power line.




The Brenda Creek Wildfire is approximately 40 kilometers west of West Kelowna, south of the Okanagan Connector.
Source: BC Wildfire Dashboard

### RESOURCES:

**Firefighters** – 42
**Heavy Equipment** - 19
**Helicopters** – 4 assigned

### EVACUATION ALERTS, ORDERS & AREA RESTRICTIONS:

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has issued an Evacuation Order for 43 properties. An Evacuation Alert has also been issued for Eneas Lakes Provincial Park.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) has issued an Evacuation Alert for three properties located in Electoral Area "M."

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) has issued an Evacuation Alert for properties, three recreational camping areas and Crown land within West Electoral Area, south of Highway 97C and northwest of Peachland. Please contact the Regional District Central Okanagan for more information.

An Area Restriction is in effect as of noon on July 17, 2021. More information is available, including a map at: www.bc.wildfire.ca

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

BC Wildfire Service

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# WHITE ROCK LAKE WILDFIRE (K61844)

This fire was first discovered on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 and is an interface fire.

## CONDITIONS:

Fire behaviour was quiet on most flanks yesterday. The fire continues to move slowly down slope at low intensity on the north east flank, which is helpful in removing fuel adjacent to properties. Temperatures will be warmer in the coming days which may result in increased fire activity. Winds will be calmer, which could cause poor venting, smokey skies and reduced visibility for aircraft

## OBJECTIVES:

BC Wildfire Service personnel continue to work with industry partners on site to establish and reinforce guard lines, and to protect critical infrastructure. A structural protection specialist is on site, assessing and prioritizing critical infrastructure and properties. Crews will be patrolling the fire tonight.
Planning on contingency lines is underway.

Ground crews continue to reinforce machine guard lines by removing fuel between the guard and the fire.
Heavy equipment was used to construct large, cleared areas at regular intervals along the guard lines. These areas are known as "safe zones", and provide crews and equipment a safe place to take shelter in if the fire behaviour should suddenly increase.

The BC Wildfire service will continue to re-evaluate the opportunity for airtanker support each day. Airtankers may be used to apply retardant to the fire if conditions allow.

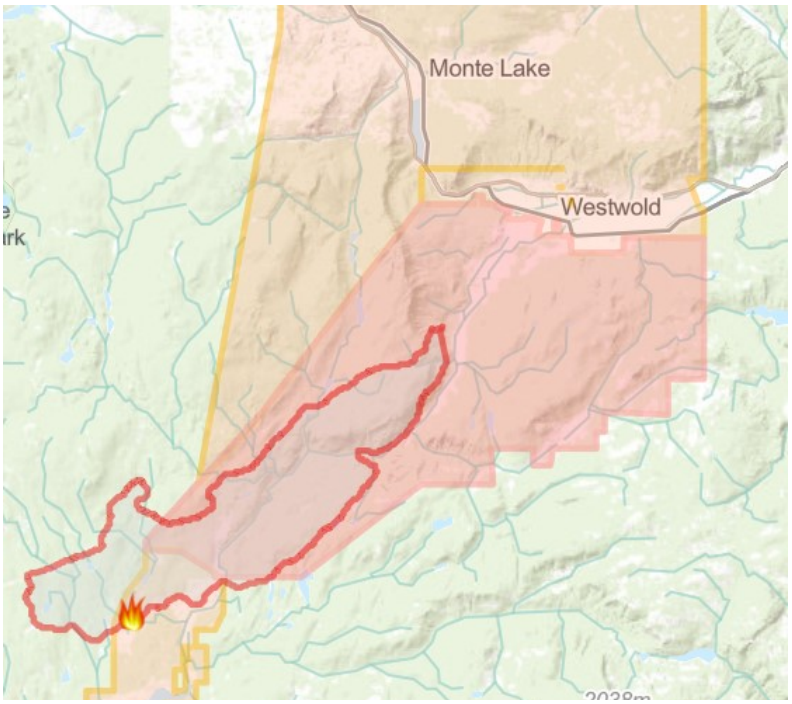
Yesterday, a ground-Based retardant unit was used to reinforce guard lines. This unit is a large truck that can apply the same type of retardant used by airtankers (see photo below).

Ground Based Retardant applied on White Rock Lake Fire (K61884) on July 23.

4 helicopters were bucketing water on to the fire yesterday.

A fire camp is being set up at the Salmon Lake Resort. This is will allow incoming firefighters and support staff to be closer to the fire, which will reduce travel time and maximize their working hours.

There have been smoke impacts to the hydro line in the area, with multiple outages occurring due to the smoke.




The White Rock Lake Wildfire is approximately 56 kilometers northeast of Merritt.

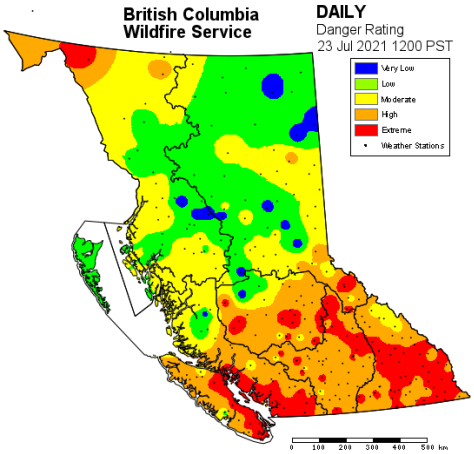
## RESOURCES:

**Fire Fighters** – 19 (partnering with fire departments and the RCMP )
**Heavy Equipment** - 34
**Helicopters** – 5 assigned
**Structural Protection Units**—1

## EVACUATION ALERTS, ORDERS & AREA RESTRICTIONS:

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) has implemented multiple Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Alerts for properties in the area. Please contact the Thompson-Nicola Regional District for more information: https://www.tnrd.ca/

**FIRE DANGER RATING**

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