BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

July 23, 2021

WILDFIRE UPDATE

Nk'Mip Creek	FIRE SIZE:	FIRE STATUS:
(K52061)	6,800 hectares (estimated)	Out of Control

RESOURCES:

Today, A combination of firefighters and an Incident Management Team make for a total of 73 personnel on the Nk'Mip Creek wildfire (K52061). Four helicopters and 12 pieces of heavy equipment are assisting.

UPDATES:

High temperatures and wind speeds have resulted in heightened wildfire activity and increased smoke. Improved visibility has allowed us to get a new estimate of the fire size. The fire is now estimated at 6,800 hectares.

Yesterday, there was significant fire spread to the north towards Camp McKinney Road. Crews and industry partners continued to work through the night to protect structures and critical infrastructure.

Heavy equipment continues to be used to build fire guards. The terrain is steep and rocky in some areas which can limit the use of equipment.

Crews have been working hard to FireSmart properties. They are removing the available fuels, aiming to reduce the risk of the fire impacting interface areas.

A column of smoke near Spud Allen Rd.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Nk'Mip Creek Wildfire Information Team | Hours: 0800—1600

403 431-1158 | BCWS.IMT8IO@gov.bc.ca

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

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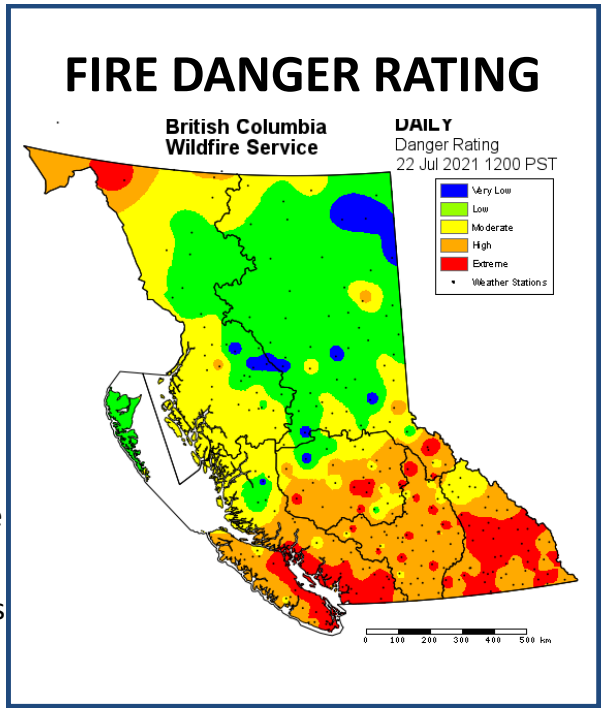
FORECAST:

A weak upper ridge will be building along the B.C. coast today which will move over the Kamloops Fire Centre region tomorrow. The ridge will be flat as an upper trough across northern BC will not allow it to strengthen. The flow will be west to southwest both days and patchy moisture in the flow will bring some cloudy periods. Near seasonal temperatures today will begin warming tomorrow and light inflow winds are expected both days.



EVACUATION ORDERS AND ALERTS:

An Evacuation Order has been issued for numerous properties by the Osoyoos Indian Band. Effective July 22, 2021, at 19:15 the Osoyoos Indian Band expanded the Evacuation Order for numerous properties on Sage Road, Pineridge Drive, Sandpoint Drive and Harmony Crescent.

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has issued an Evacuation Alert for Electoral Area A, C and some areas in the Town of Oliver. The RDOS has expanded the Evacuation Order for Electoral Area A. RDOS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has declared a State of Local Emergency.

The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RKDB) has issued an Evacuation Order for 122 properties and an Evacuation Alert for an additional 304 properties in the area of the Nk'Mip Creek wildfire.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Please contact us by email or phone if you have any questions.

Email: BCWS.IMT8IO@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 403 431-1158

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

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HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- View an interactive map by clicking here or visiting **http://ow.ly/uo2U30oXqzS**
- **Road Closures:** DriveBC |dial 1-800-550-4997 | https://www.drivebc.ca/
- **Drifting Smoke:** www.bcairquality.ca/bluesky/west/index.html
- **Smoke Health Concerns:** HealthLink BC | dial 8-1-1| www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp
- For info on **Community Support Services**, click here or visit https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/
- For **damage** to private property and Reserve Lands, please email **BCWSClaims2019@gov.bc.ca.**

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES			
BC Wildfire Service	**Emergency Management BC**	**Local municipalities and regional districts**	**First Nations**
- BCWS's jurisdiction covers all BC Parks, Crown and private lands, but does not include the boundaries of local governments that have forest fire prevention bylaws and are serviced by a fire department. - BCWS speaks directly about **wildfires** (i.e. fire status, operations, etc.) and is responsible for disseminating wildfire updates to local governments, stakeholders, First Nations and the public. - BCWS does not announce Strategic Evacuation Orders or Alerts. - BCWS does announce Tactical Evacuations. - In the event of an imminent threat to public safety, BCWS can authorize an immediate **Tactical Evacuation** of the affected area.	- EMBC coordinates communication across all agencies and stakeholders to support communities. - EMBC provides advice to evacuees and support to communities regarding Emergency Operations Centres and Emergency Support Services	- Local Municipalities and Regional Districts speak directly about **Strategic Evacuation Orders and Alerts in** their respective jurisdictions. - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts do not speak about the status of a wildfire unless the fire occurs within their jurisdiction. For example, if a wildfire starts within the boundaries of a local government, BCWS will often assist the local fire department with suppression efforts. If the fire spreads into Crown land to become a wildfire, BCWS will often assume control.	- On IR lands, Evacuation Orders and Alerts are implemented by a Band Council Resolution or other. - A designated person(s) from the respective First Nations community will speak to Evacuation Orders and Alerts on IR lands.

ACCESSING INFORMATION					
BC Wildfire Service Online Communications		**EmergencyInfoBC EMBC Online Communications**		**PreparednessBC EMBC Online Communications**	
	@BCGovFireInfo		@EmergencyInfoBC		@PreparedBC
	www.bcwildfire.ca		www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca		www.gov.bc.ca/preparedBC
	BC Wildfire Service				PreparedBC

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FIRE STAGES OF CONROL:

Out of Control	Describes a wildfire that is not responding (or only responding on a limited basis) to suppression action, such that the
Being Held	Indicates that (with the resources currently committed to the fire) sufficient suppression action has been taken that the
Under Control	The fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.

WILDFIRE RANKS:

Rank	Description
1	**Characteristics:** Smouldering ground fire, no open flame, white smoke, slow (i.e. creeping) rate of fire spread. **Firefighting tactics:** Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools and water delivery systems (i.e. pumps and hose).
2	**Characteristics:** Surface fire, visible, open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front, slow rate of spread. **Firefighting tactics:** Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools, water delivery systems, or heavy equipment. Hand constructed control lines and lines that have been cleared of combustible material will likely be successful.
3	**Characteristics:** Organised flame front – fire progressing in organised manner, occasional candling may be observed along the perimeter and/or within the fire, moderate rate of spread. **Firefighting tactics:** Hand constructed control lines alone are likely to be challenged, ground crews conducting direct attack may require air support from fixed-wing air tankers, skimmers or helicopters conducting bucketing or tanking operations. Control lines constructed by heavy equipment will generally be effective
4	**Characteristics:** Grey to black smoke, organised surface flame front, moderate to fast rate of spread on the ground, short aerial bursts through the forest canopy, short-range spotting. **Firefighting tactics:** Ground operations may not be successful at the head of the fire, indirect tactics may be required to bring the head of the fire under control. Parallel attack may be used along the flanks of the fire to direct the head into favourable ground or fuels. Air operations may be required to support ground personnel.
5	**Characteristics:** Black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and spot fire growth. **Firefighting tactics:** The limited options available include indirect attack and planned ignitions to remove fuel in the path of this type of fire behaviour. Ground operations are often restricted to fighting the least active sections of the fire or conducting ground ignition operations from secure control lines with readily available escape routes and safety zones.
6	**Characteristics:** Organised crown fire front, long-range spotting and independent spot fire growth, possible fireballs and whirls, violent fire behaviour probable, a dominant smoke column may develop which influences fire behaviour. **Firefighting tactics:** Firefighting under these conditions is extremely dangerous. Suppression efforts will be well away from active fire behaviour and may include preparing structure protection measures or conducting indirect large-scale ignition operations in an attempt to steer the fire. Often, the safest and most prudent strategy is to pull resources back to safe areas, ensure that personnel and the general public are safe, and wait for fire behaviour to lessen before re-engaging in fire suppression operations.