BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

July 27, 2021

WILDFIRE UPDATE

71W22KC - Okanagan Complex	**FIRE SIZE:** Thomas Creek (K51794): 7279 ha (estimate) Brenda Creek (K51924): 824 ha (estimate) White Rock Lake (K61884) 17,096 ha (estimate)	**FIRE STATUS:** Out of Control

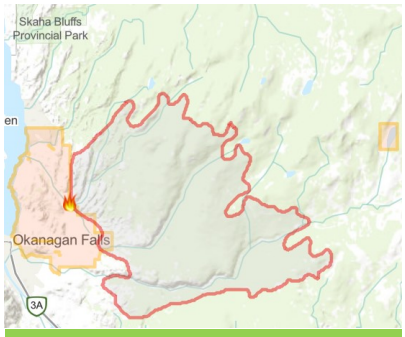
THOMAS CREEK WILDFIRE (K51794)

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

CONDITIONS:

Fire behaviour increased significantly the last few days, particularly in the north and northeast. This caused the fire to grow towards the height of land between the Okanagan and the west part of the Kettle River Drainage.

This increased fire activity is expected to continue in the coming days as hot, dry and windy conditions will persist. No precipitation is anticipated in the near future. These conditions will continue to challenge fire suppression efforts.



Source: BC Wildfire Dashboard

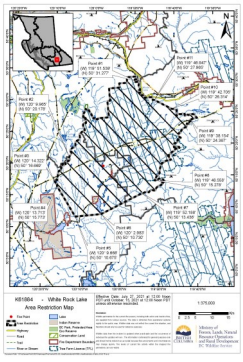
OBJECTIVES:

Crews and equipment will continue to work to the north and east of the fire to create and reinforce guard lines using existing roads, old fire guards and other natural features. This is being done in an effort to get ahead of the fire in the north and northeast sections.

Crews continue to patrol the guard line on the west flank and began to demobilize equipment from reinforced guard lines in this area. Fire activity was relatively quiet along this western flank.

Heavy equipment is being used to build contingency guard lines to the east of the fire.

Crews have now secured the 201 road up to the 13 kilometre mark by assessing and removing danger trees that were in striking distance of the road. This ensures safe access for crews and equipment. Crews will gradually widen the safe areas along the road over the coming days, but may be hampered by the expected increase in fire activity. Access along the northeast portion of the 201 road was challenged yesterday due to heightened fire activity. A drone scan was conducted last night that will enable crews to focus on hotspots.



The BC Wildfire Service and the Canadian Armed Forces did a reconnaissance of this fire tomorrow morning to determine suitable objectives. Military personnel are expected to be working on this fire as early as Wednesday morning, alongside BCWS crews in priority areas.

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 and further updated on July 27, 2021. More information is available at: www.bcwildfire.bc.ca.

RESOURCES:

Firefighters – 30

Heavy Equipment - 15

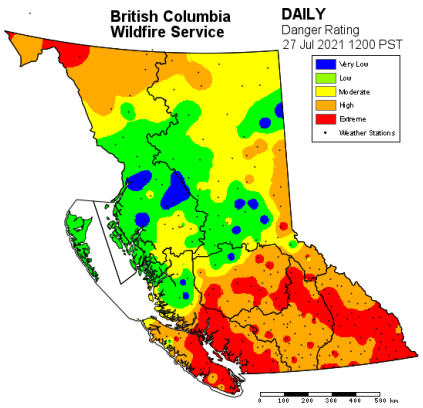
Helicopters – 5 assigned

Structural Protection – Structural protection within and adjacent to the fire perimeter is being triaged.

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/

FIRE DANGER RATING



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

July 27, 2021

BRENDA CREEK WILDFIRE (K51924)

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

CONDITIONS:

Fire behaviour increased yesterday due to warmer and drier conditions, but overall fire growth was minimal. The most active portion of the fire was near the southwest flank . An increase in fire activity may occur in the coming days as hot, dry and windy conditions will persist. No precipitation is anticipated in the near future. These conditions will continue to challenge fire suppression efforts.

OBJECTIVES:

Staff are working to identify and build contingency lines on active flanks of the fire. Crews continue to work on reinforcement of guard lines and mop up under sections of the transmission line.

Yesterday, there was some growth on the east flank as well as to the north of the Brenda Mine Road. Crews will be working on containment in these areas today, and will action any spot fires that may occur. Winds were calm this morning but are expected to pick up early in the day. The protection of life, property and critical infrastructure remain as the priority.

The high-volume water delivery system that was in place to protect the section of the transmission line within the fire perimeter has been demobilized due to decreased risk in that area of the fire. This water line was instrumental in the protection of the transmission line. The transmission line remains operational.

Crews continue to reinforce sections of guard line on the north west corner of the fire.

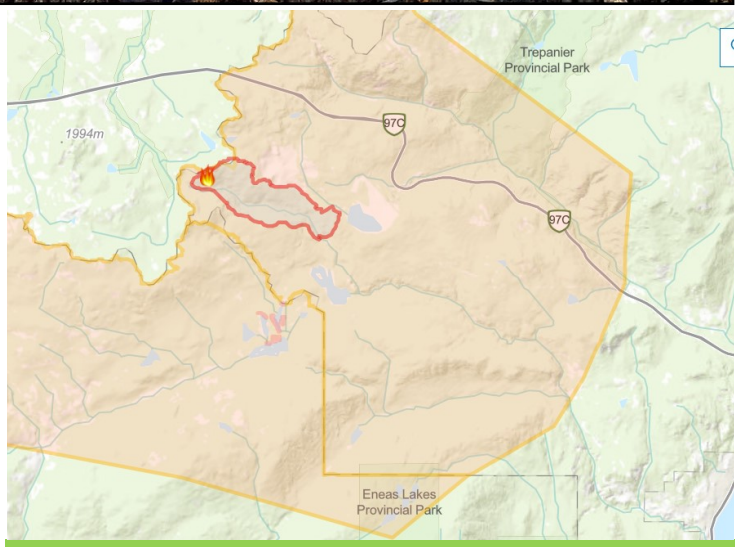
Brenda Creek Fire (K51924): at noon on July 26.

Helicopters will continue to bucket water on to hotspots, drawing water from nearby lakes.

5 firefighters remained on site last night to monitor the fire and protect high value features.

STRUCTURAL PROTECTION:

Remains in place on high value resources with 1 task force leader, 1 high volume water delivery systems (3 crew) and 2 structure protection trailers are on site. They are supported by 17 firefighters from 6 different 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 – 56
Heavy Equipment - 20
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 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

July 27, 2021

WHITE ROCK LAKE WILDFIRE (K61884)

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

CONDITIONS:

The extreme weather conditions continue to cause significant growth on the fire. Today, the east flank has grown towards the Bouleau Lakes area. The north flank has also been very active. Conditions in these areas are extremely smokey, which is hampering the ability for aircraft to fly. This is challenging suppression efforts. To protect the safety of the public and first responders, the BC wildfire Service will continue to evaluate the need for further evacuation order and alert recommendations.

Given the amount of fuel loading in this area of the fire, we will continue to see elevated fire behaviour. Smoke columns will be visible to surrounding communities. On Thursday, subtropical moisture may bring thunderstorms, strong winds and dry lightning to the region. Hot and dry conditions will remain through the weekend. Fire growth is expected to the east and northeast.

OBJECTIVES:

More structural protection units have been requested. A task force of fire engines will be patrolling and actioning hotspots in an effort to protect properties and high value assets.

Heavy equipment is being 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.

A ground-based retardant unit is being used to reinforce guard lines. This unit is a large truck that can apply the same type of retardant used by airtankers.

Airtankers may continue to be used to apply retardant to the fire if conditions allow. This is done to help slow the spread of the fire and create time and space for equipment and crews to safely build guard lines ahead of the fire. Planning and construction of contingency lines continues.

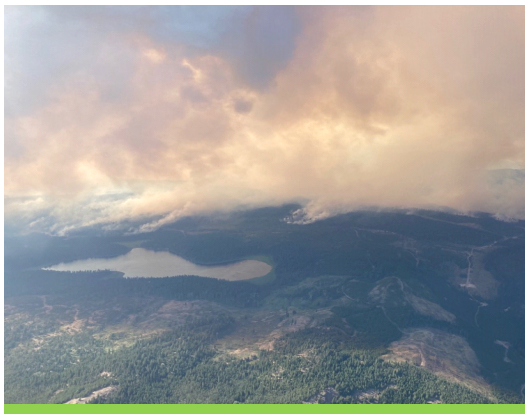
Six helicopters will be bucketing water on to the fire today. This tactic is used to cool and slow the spread of the fire so that ground crews can safely continue their suppression efforts.

A structural protection specialist is on site, assessing and prioritizing critical infrastructure and properties.

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

100 firefighters and 12 support staff from Quebec have arrived at the Okanagan Complex, and will be staying in the camp that is now set up at the Salmon Lake Resort and were working on this fire yesterday.

Heavy smoke in the area has been impacting hydro lines. As a result, power outages have occurred and may continue to do so.



Jimmy Lake on the south-east side of the White Rock Lake Wildfire on afternoon of July 26.

RESOURCES:

Fire Fighters – 127 (including 100 out of province from Quebec).

Heavy Equipment - 38

Helicopters – 7 assigned

Structural Protection: 1 structural protection specialist, 1 structural protection unit (5 staff), 1 structural protection trailers, 1 bush fire engine and 9 firefighters from 3 fire departments are on this fire.

EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

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

The Columbia-Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) has implemented an Evacuation Order and an Evacuation Alert for properties in the area. Please contact the CSRD for more information: https://www.csrd.bc.ca/

The Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) has implemented an Evacuation Order and an Evacuation Alert for properties in the area. Please contact the RDNO for more information: http://www.rdno.ca/

AREA RESTRICTION ORDER:

The BC Wildfire Service has implemented an Area Restriction Order in the vicinity of the White Rock Lake wildfire. This Area Restriction Order took effect today at noon, July 27, 2021 and will remain in place until noon, October 15, 2021 or until it is rescinded. The size of the Area Restriction Order reflects the need to protect the public in areas where there are ongoing fire suppression activities. For more information, please review the White Rock Lake Area Restriction Order information bulletin and map.

South-east side of the White Rock Lake Wildfire on afternoon of July 26.

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