BC Wildfire Service

July 25, 2021 (Vol 1.)

WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX

Octopus Creek Wildfire	Michaud Creek Wildfire	Renata Creek Wildfire
(N51800/N51317)	(N51765)	(N51688)
Size: 11,444 hectares	Size: 4,600 hectares	Size: 1,264 hectares
Status: Out of control	Status: Out of control	Status: Out of control
Cause: Lightning	Cause: Lightning	Cause: Lightning

GENERAL WILDFIRE COMPLEX UPDATES:

Hello and thank you for reading the first volume of the Arrow Lake Wildfire Complex Wildfire Update. My name is Caroline and I will be your Wildfire Information Officer. Our incident management team is nearly fully established in the community of Nakusp and working closely with the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

You can anticipate that this update will be provided daily unless conditions change. An information board will also be available outside of the Nakusp Community Complex with maps, photos and other information.

RESOURCES:

There are currently a total of 39 firefighters, 30 pieces of heavy equipment and 3 helicopters assigned to the Arrow Lake Complex.
Octopus: 21 firefighters , 4 pieces of heavy equipment, 1 helicopter
Michaud: 2 firefighters, 20 pieces of heavy equipment, 1 helicopter
Renata: 1 firefighter, 6 pieces of heavy equipment, 0 helicopters
Incident Management Team & General Complex: 15 firefighters, 1 helicopter

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Wildfire Information Officer: Caroline Charbonneau | Hours: 0800-2000

778 364 1287 | BCWS.ArrowlakeINFO@gov.bc.ca

Evacuation Information: Emergency Operation Centre | 250-352-7701 | www.rdck.ca

Road & Ferry Conditions: | 800-550-4997 | DriveBC.ca

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

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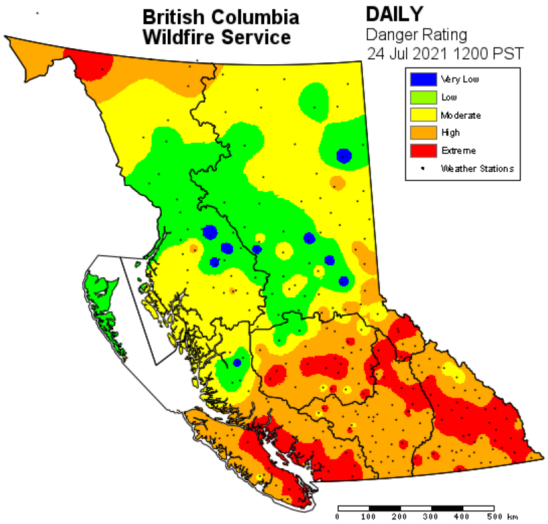
WEATHER & FIRE BEHAVIOUR FORECASTS:

Mostly sunny, very dry and warm conditions will persist for the next few days. We expect to see low to moderate gusty wind conditions Sunday afternoon, this evening and into Monday afternoon.

There will be poor relative humidity recovery, meaning that fine fuels and vegetation that is available to the fire will be easier to burn.

The terrain will greatly influence the fire behaviour because wildfire burns quicker on slopes. The smoke in the area is blocking the sun, which has lowered temperatures and increased relative humidity; however, smoke is impeding air support operations.

FIRE DANGER RATING



EVACUATION ALERTS & ORDERS:

The Regional District of Central Kootenay has issued an evacuation order in the vicinity of this fire. [The most current information is available at https://www.rdck.ca/](https://www.rdck.ca/)

An area restriction order is in effect. Further information is available at www.bcwildfire.ca.

OCTOPUS CREEK WILDFIRE (as of July 25, 2021 9:00 a.m):

On the recommendation of the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has issued an Evacuation ORDER for the community of Fauquier in Electoral Area K, north to Grassy Point due to the Octopus Creek wildfire (N51800). This is in addition to the previous order issued earlier this evening due to the quickly evolving situation. By expanding the ORDER, both Applegrove and Fauquier are now under an Evacuation ORDER for a total of 168 properties.

MICHAUD CREEK WILDFIRE (as of July 25, 2021 9:00 a.m):

On the recommendation of the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is reducing a portion of the area currently under Evacuation Order to an Evacuation Alert. 184 properties in the Edgewood area south of Robinson Rd and the Lower Inonoaklin-North Branch, will remain on Evacuation Order, while 172 properties in the Edgewood area, primarily north of Hwy 6 and Whatshan areas, will be reduced to an Evacuation Alert. This reduction to an Alert means residents can return to their properties, but must be prepared to leave on short notice should conditions change.

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

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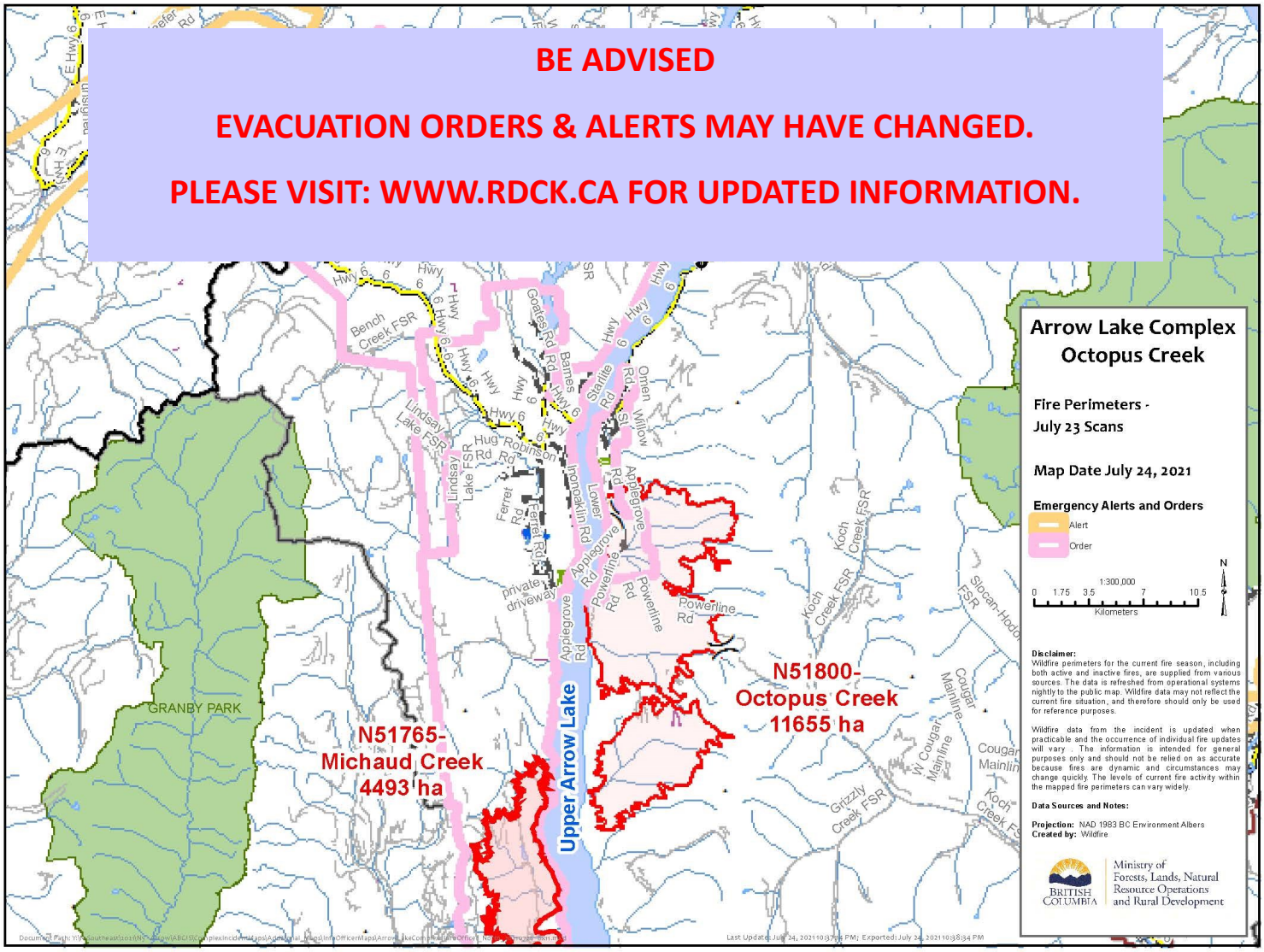
WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX | NORTH MAP | OCTOPUS WILDFIRE

OBJECTIVES:

Crews will continue to anchor where possible with heavy equipment and personnel. Crews are focusing on establishing containment lines in priority areas that are identified, largely communities and structures. The crews are currently concentrating on the north flank and will move to the south flank once visibility allows for aircraft. The fire is very visible from Edgewood, Fauquier, Needles and surrounding areas.



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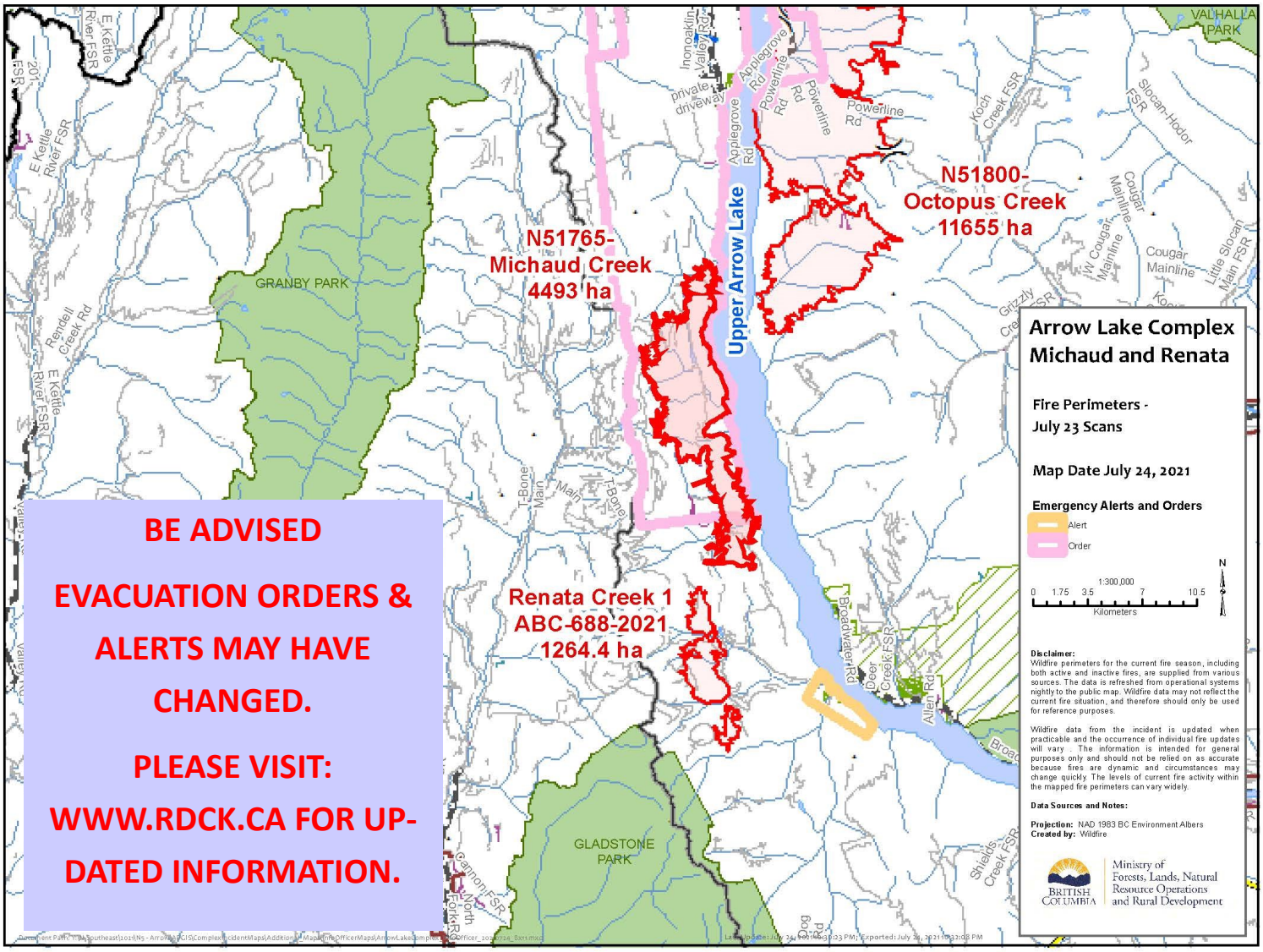
WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX | SOUTH MAP | MICHAUD & RENATA WILDFIRE

OBJECTIVES:

As of this morning, the Michaud fire remains south of Johnson Creek and was holding at the established control lines and an area of an old burn. Crews will continue to anchor where possible with heavy equipment and personnel. Crews are focusing on establishing containment lines in priority areas which include the north flank to limit the growth to the north, north west.



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ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE PHOTOS

Above: Wildfire management aboard the ferry overlooking the Octopus Creek Wildfire. Heavy smoke lingers above the wildfires, limiting helicopter and airtanker uses. (July 24)

Above: Wildfire assessor aboard a helicopter to assess the north side of the Octopus Wildfire. Containment lines were built with dozers and hand crews. (July 24)

Above: The Type 1 Incident Management Team from Alberta arrived on the evening of July 21. They are now established in the area and handling the Arrow Lake Complex as of July 24, 2021. The team is here to manage the logistical, fiscal, planning, operational, safety and information related to the wildfire. The incident command post is located at the Nakusp Community Complex.

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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 perimeter spread is not being contained.
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.

RANK 1 RANK 2 RANK 3 RANK 4 RANK 5 RANK 6