



ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX

Octopus Creek Wildfire

(N51800/N51317)

Size: 14,238 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

Michaud Creek Wildfire

(N51765)

Size: 5,981 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

Renata Creek Wildfire

(N51688)

Size: 1,970 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

GENERAL WILDFIRE COMPLEX UPDATES:

We want to thank the public for being mindful when working and recreating in the outdoors. Spark, friction and hot exhaust can easily start a wildfire and could spread very quickly. By preventing wildfires, this gives our resources more time to focus on the existing wildfires.

The smoke is currently impeding most of the air support operations. This is due to visibility and safety concerns for the pilots and firefighters. Airtankers will be utilized to support wildfire operations when visibility allows safe operations with the aircraft.

We would also like to remind folks that the wildfire perimeter maps is an estimate based on measurements such as GPS, aerial scanning and satellite imagery. This estimated perimeter can change as more accurate measurements become available. Areas within the fire perimeter may not have been affected by wildfire. This is especially true when containment lines, structure protection and sprinkler systems are established.

RESOURCES:

There are currently a total of 105 firefighters, 34 pieces of heavy equipment and 4 helicopters assigned to the Arrow Lake Complex. Additional aircraft is available if requested.

Octopus: 48 firefighters , 9 pieces of heavy equipment

Michaud: 41 firefighters, 20 pieces of heavy equipment

Renata: 1 firefighter, 5 pieces of heavy equipment

Incident Management Team & General Complex: 15 firefighters, 3 support personnel, 4 helicopters

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



WEATHER & FIRE BEHAVIOUR FORECASTS:

Mostly sunny, very dry and warm conditions will continue to persist for the next few days.

Fire behaviour is expected to remain low to moderate due to the quieter winds and smoke that is covering the wildfires from the sun. Smoke is likely to clear in some localized areas. This could indicate an increase in wind which could intensify fire activity. Be aware that these conditions could change rapidly and fire behavior could increase suddenly. Increase fire behaviour makes it even more challenging for our firefighters and heavy equipment on the ground.

There will be poor overnight humidity recovery again in the next few days. This means that fine fuels and vegetation that is available to the fire will burn easier than usual. There are some types of vegetation that we don't often expect to burn easily. Because of these very dry conditions, that vegetation is burning regardless.

With that in mind, any hot exhaust, spark or friction could easily start a wildfire and could burn very quickly in vegetation that would not normally be expected to. The terrain also greatly influences the fire behaviour because wildfire burns quicker on slopes.

AREA RESTRICTIONS:

The BC Wildfire Service has amended an **Area Restriction Order** for the vicinity of the Octopus Creek wildfire (N51800). This area restriction reflects the continued need to protect the public in areas where ongoing fire suppression activities are taking place. Visit www.bcwildfire.ca for more information.

EVACUATION ALERTS & ORDERS:

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

Please be advised that the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) does not issue evacuation orders or alerts. The BCWS works closely with Regional Districts and share critical wildfire information. The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) will use the wildfire information along with other critical information from local authorities and protection services to base their decision on evacuations.

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



ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX | OBJECTIVES AND TACTICS

The overall objective of the wildfire complex is to build containment lines to prevent the wildfires from approaching values at risk such as communities, properties, infrastructure and natural resources (for example: cell towers, hydro lines and major transportation corridors).

Once the wildfire is contained, crews will continue to work the perimeter of the wildfire inward, removing the risk of escaping the expected boundaries.

The containment lines are built using dozers to remove the burnable vegetation, hand tools where heavy equipment cannot access or they may conduct planned ignition when possible. Planned ignition is an effective way to remove burnable material under conditions that favor this tactic. These burns are only conducted under the guidance of senior staff and are closely monitored by firefighters during and after operations. Structure protection was established early on and is maintained and monitored by dedicated firefighters on properties that are threatened on Octopus, Michaud and Renata.

MICHAUD CREEK WILDFIRE | OBJECTIVES:

As of this morning, the fire remained south of Johnson Creek. Yesterday, the crews made great progress on the fire line and a helicopter was able to carry out bucketing operations at Johnston Creek. The helicopter worked with firefighters to search for, and extinguish hotspots and open flame. Sprinkler systems were also deployed at Johnston Creek in hopes to increase the relative humidity in the vicinity and protect the containment line that is being established. Due to the conditions last night, it caused a spot fire to occur along the Johnston Creek drainage. Firefighters are actively suppressing the spot fire.

Today, crews will continue to focus on establishing and reinforcing containment lines in priority areas, which also include the north flank to limit the growth to the north – north west. Direct firefighting attack on the wildfire will also continue where possible.

OCTOPUS CREEK WILDFIRE | OBJECTIVES:

Crews will continue to anchor where possible with heavy equipment and personnel. They will focus on establishing and reinforcing containment lines in priority areas that are identified, largely near communities and structures. Direct attack on the wildfire will also continue where possible. On the north flank, firefighters are attempting to shift the wildfire upslope into the alpine and away from the community.

The fire is creeping slowly towards the containment lines; however the crews and equipment continue to reinforce the guard. Heavy equipment is planned to begin new guard near for additional protection.

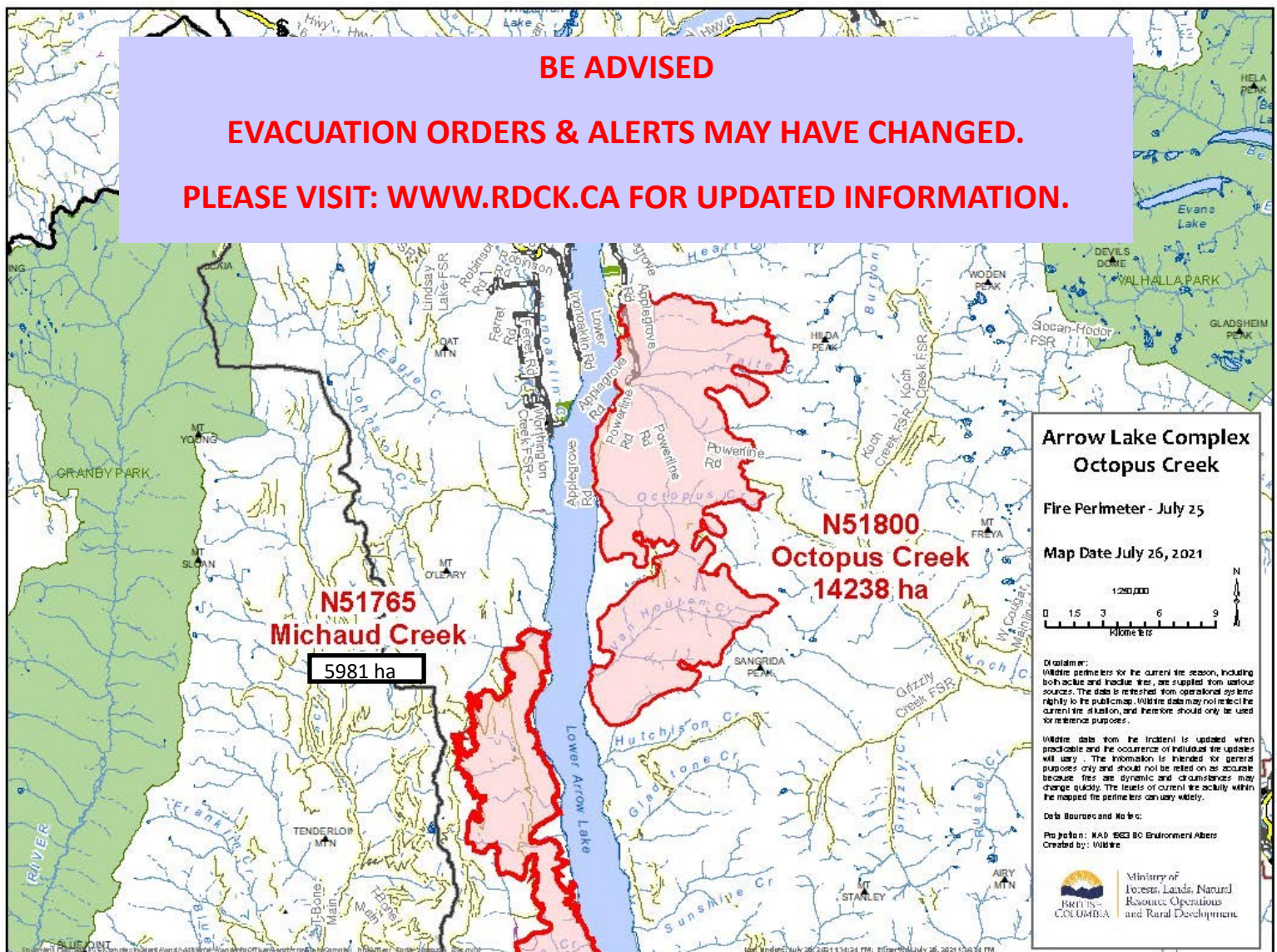
RENATA CREEK WILDFIRE | OBJECTIVES:

On the Renata Creek Wildfire, crews will continue to build and reinforce containment lines that have been established in priority areas. The fire continues to back down slowly towards the community but there is no imminent threat at this time.



WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX MAPS | NORTH MAP



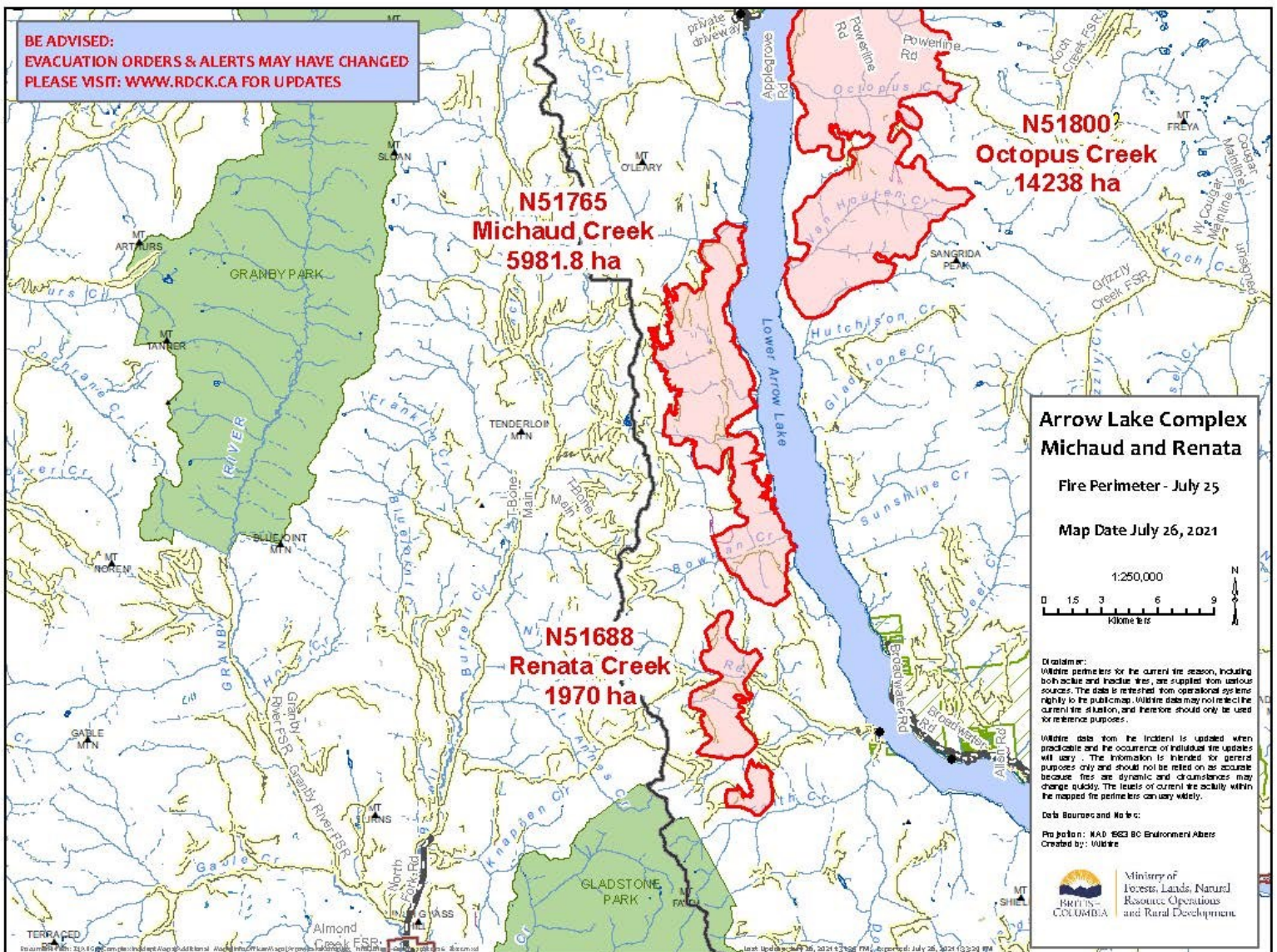
The wildfire perimeter maps is an estimate based on measurements such as GPS, aerial scanning and satellite imagery. This estimated perimeter can change as more accurate measurements become available. Areas within the fire perimeter may not have been affected by wildfire.

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



WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX MAPS | SOUTH MAP



The wildfire perimeter maps is an estimate based on measurements such as GPS, aerial scanning and satellite imagery. This estimated perimeter can change as more accurate measurements become available. Areas within the fire perimeter may not have been affected by wildfire.

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



ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE PHOTOS



Left: Johnson Forest Service Road
(July 27, 2021)

Right: Michaud Creek wildfire—Looking over
Johnston Creek. The fire is challenging the
guard but resources are actively working on
reinforcing the line. (July 27, 2021)



HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- View an interactive map by clicking [here](http://ow.ly/uo2U30oXqzS) 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](https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/) 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <u>not</u> announce Strategic Evacuation Orders or Alerts. - BCWS <u>does</u> announce Tactical Evacuations. - In the event of an imminent threat to public safety, BCWS can authorize an immediate Tactical Evacuation of the affected area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts speak directly about Strategic Evacuation Orders and Alerts in their respective jurisdictions. - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts <u>do not</u> speak about the status of a wildfire unless the fire occurs within their jurisdiction. For example, if a wildfire <u>starts</u> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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

FIRE STAGES OF CONTROL:

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 fire is not likely to spread beyond existing or predetermined boundaries under the prevailing and forecasted conditions.
Under Control	The fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.

WILDFIRE RANKS:

Rank	Description
1	<p>Characteristics: Smouldering ground fire, no open flame, white smoke, slow (i.e. creeping) rate of fire spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools and water delivery systems (i.e. pumps and hose).</p>
2	<p>Characteristics: Surface fire, visible, open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front, slow rate of spread.</p> <p>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.</p>
3	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
4	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
5	<p>Characteristics: Black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and spot fire growth.</p> <p>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.</p>
6	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>



RANK 1

RANK 2

RANK 3

RANK 4

RANK 5

RANK 6