



ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX

Octopus Creek Wildfire

(N51800/N51317)

Size: 17,520 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

Michaud Creek Wildfire

(N51765)

Size: 7,856 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

Renata Creek Wildfire

(N51688)

Size: 3,081 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

GENERAL WILDFIRE COMPLEX UPDATES:

We would like to remind folks to be aware that wildfire may have displaced wildlife from many forested areas. Residents may see an increase in bear activity within the communities and surrounding areas. Give them room to pass through, keep food or other bear attractants locked away, out of reach and if you have wildlife concerns, please contact 877-952-7277 (RAPP). To learn more on how you can be bear aware, visit the <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/> website on wildlife awareness or [clicking here](#).

Please be advised that the use of drones near a wildfire is illegal. All wildfires are automatically considered to be “flight restricted”, according to Canadian Aviation Regulations. The restricted airspace includes a radius of five nautical miles around the fire, and to an altitude of 3,000 feet above ground level.

We want to remind everyone to use extra caution when working and recreating in the outdoors. Vegetation and fine fuels are very dry and any spark, hot exhaust or friction could start a wildfire. Be aware of your surroundings and report wildfires immediately to 800-663-5555 or *5555 on your cellphone.

RESOURCES:

There are currently a total of 134 firefighters, 34 pieces of heavy equipment and 5 helicopters assigned to the Arrow Lake Complex. Additional aircraft is available if requested. *(These numbers have been updated at 3:00 p.m)*

Octopus: 53 firefighters , 9 pieces of heavy equipment

Michaud: 55 firefighters, 20 pieces of heavy equipment

Renata: 1 firefighter, 5 pieces of heavy equipment

Incident Management Team & General Complex: 15 firefighters, 10 support personnel, 5 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](https://twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo)

www.firesmartbc.ca



WEATHER & FIRE BEHAVIOUR FORECASTS:

The area may see very limited scattered showers in some regions. We anticipate mostly sunny, very dry and warm conditions for the next few days. The fire behaviour is anticipated to remain low to moderate due to the quieter winds and smoke that is covering the wildfire from the sun. Smoke coverage is expected to increase over the upcoming days as winds are forecasted to be less than 12 km/h. Weather forecasts show some precipitation later in the weekend, however significant rainfall would be needed to influence the moisture in burnable materials.

Local topography may cause some areas of the wildfire to experience greater fire behaviour, which could cause the wildfire to grow in size. 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 are 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 up 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 anticipated boundaries. The containment lines are built using multiple techniques such as dozers or hand tools to remove the burnable vegetation. In some cases we may use planned ignition to remove fuel between the containment line and the fire.

Planned ignitions are essential to help contain large wildfires. They are used in situations where direct attack has limited effectiveness, or to maximize resources by reducing the area that requires suppression efforts. Planned ignitions are monitored under the direction of a certified ignition specialist or other qualified personnel to meet pre-determined land management objectives. Large-scale ignition operations are supported with appropriate resources, such as aircraft, heavy equipment and firefighters. Before any burn is carried out on a wildfire, a detailed action plan must be established as well as control lines and a water delivery system. The last step before commencing the planned ignition is to organize resources and conduct a safety briefing. Opportunities for planned ignition are being explored.

The exact timing of this burn will depend on weather and site conditions, but it could begin as early as today, only if conditions are suitable.

MICHAUD CREEK WILDFIRE | OBJECTIVES:

Sprinkler systems were deployed at Johnston Creek with hopes to increase the relative humidity in the vicinity and protect the containment line that are being established.

Crews continue to work on spot fires across Johnson Creek with water pumps and hose along with helicopter assistance when visibility allows. Firefighters anticipate that they can contain the spot fires under the current weather conditions.

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

The residents of Edgewood may notice some of the structure protection was shifted around within the town for safety reasons. The structure protection will remain in place until the community is no longer threatened. We appreciate the assistance from the residents. We ask that you leave the equipment in place until the alert is lifted. The reason is for the benefit of your properties and structures protection.



ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX | OBJECTIVES AND TACTICS (continued)

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. This will create a guard in hopes to protect the community from advancing wildfire. Last night, firefighters were on the planned ignition line until 3:00 a.m, taking advantage of the optimal and safe burning conditions. Great progress has been made on the ignition line, removing lots of burnable debris on the containment lines outlined.

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 in priority areas for additional protection once the priority lines are set.

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.

STRUCTURE PROTECTION

Structure protection was established early on and is maintained and monitored by dedicated firefighters on properties that are threatened.

We ask that you do not disturb the sprinklers and other structure protection that's been established in the community.

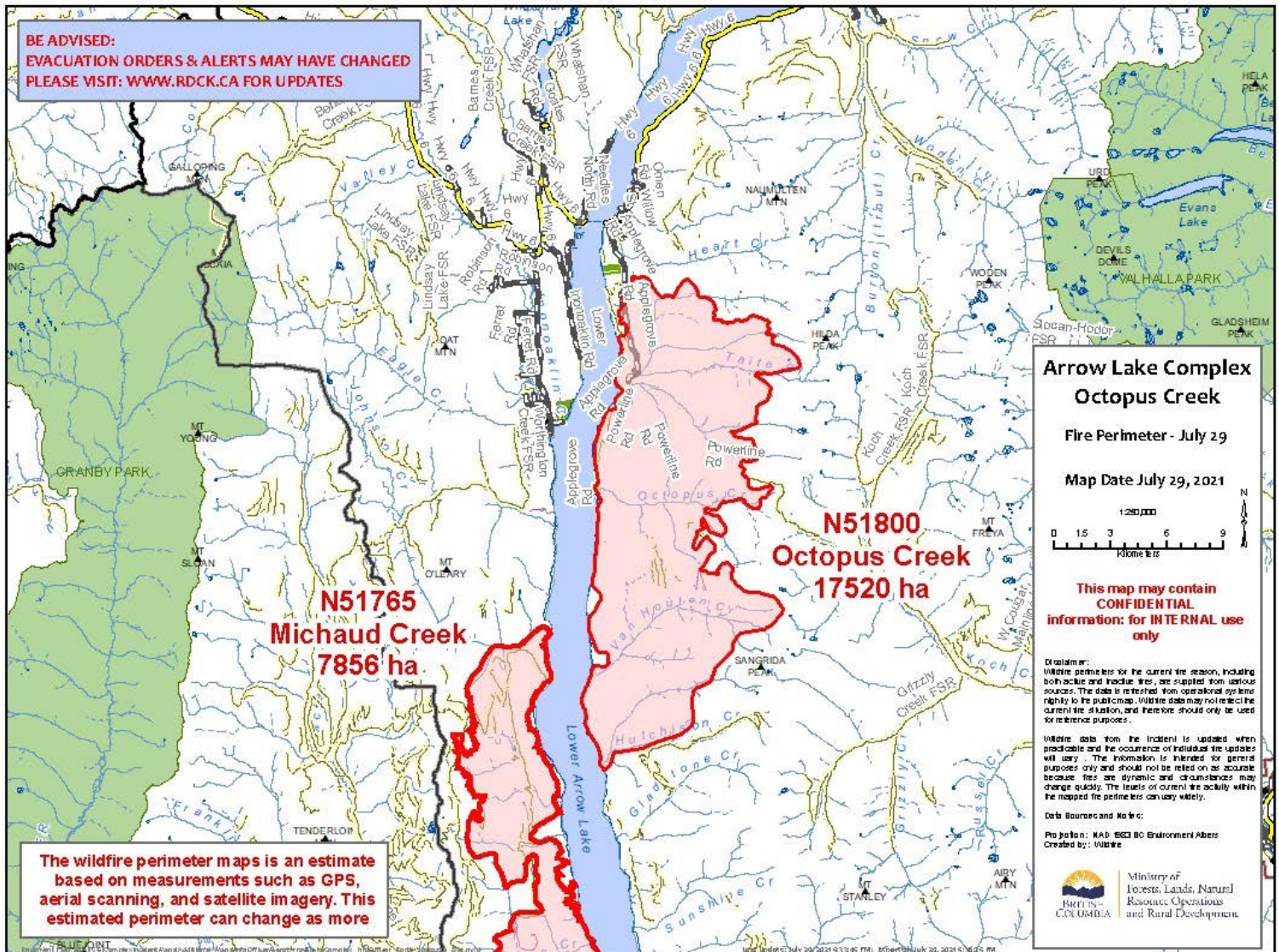
All the wildfires in the complex are being closely monitored by BCWS and other trained firefighters.





WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX MAPS | NORTH MAP

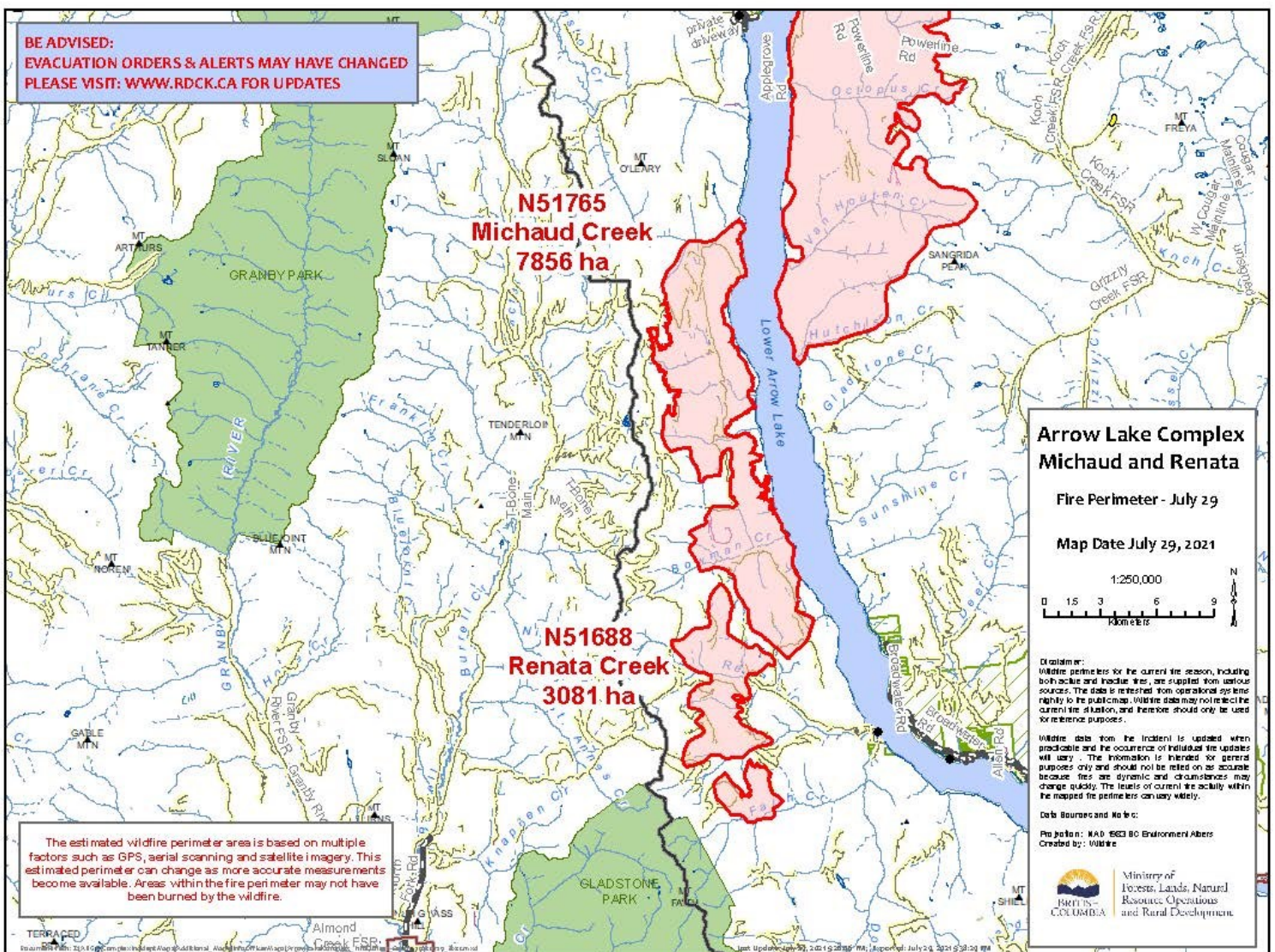


The wildfire perimeter maps is an estimate based on measurements such as GPS, aerial scanning and satellite imagery. This estimated perimeter can change as more accurate measurements become available. Areas within the fire perimeter may not have been affected or burnt by wildfire.

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



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 or burnt by wildfire.

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ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE PHOTOS

Additional photos will be posted on the Information Board located at the Nakusp & District Sports Complex



Left: Crews are working hard to contain the perimeter of the Octopus Creek Fire. They are taking advantage of the cool, early morning temperatures in order to effectively eliminate hot spots off the containment line. Although the steep, rocky terrain has been difficult for crews to work in, they continue to make good progress in their operations.

Thousands of feet of water hose are laid across the Arrow Lake Complex (July 28, 2021)



Right: Crews worked until 3:00 a.m. last night, taking advantage of optimal burning conditions to conduct a planned ignition on the Octopus North flank (July 29, 2021)

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
<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