



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:

Today on the complex we expect fire behaviour to remain fairly calm due to the lessening winds and the cooler temperatures from the smoke which is blocking the sun. We want to remind folks that these conditions could change rapidly and fire behavior could increase suddenly.

The smoke is currently impeding air support operations. We want to assure you that the air attack officers are monitoring the smoke. Airtankers and helicopters will return to work as soon as visibility is clear and it is deemed safe to resume operations.

The complex has requested additional resources but as many of you know, resources are limited in the province. The province has received assistance from out of province and country. Those resources are being allocated to various areas in the province.

RESOURCES:

There are currently a total of 105 firefighters, 34 pieces of heavy equipment and 3 helicopters assigned to the Arrow Lake Complex.

Octopus: 48 firefighters , 9 pieces of heavy equipment, 1 helicopter

Michaud: 41 firefighters, 20 pieces of heavy equipment, 1 helicopter

Renata: 1 firefighter, 5 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



WEATHER & FIRE BEHAVIOUR FORECASTS:

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

We expect to see low to moderate gusty wind conditions this evening and into Tuesday afternoon. The wind will clear some of the smoke from some localized areas which will allow for aircraft to potentially operate in. However, when we see patches of smoke free areas, this often indicates that the winds have increased which could increase fire behaviour. Increased fire behaviour makes it even more challenging for our firefighters and heavy equipment on the ground.

There will be poor relative 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



Right: Wildfire burning up slope earlier last week.

EVACUATION ALERTS & ORDERS:

The Regional District of Central Kootenay has issued an evacuation order 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

On all the wildfires in the complex, the fires are being closely monitored by BCWS and other trained firefighters.

The containment lines are built using dozers to remove the burnable vegetation, hand tools where heavy equipment cannot access or they may conduct vegetation reduction burning when possible. Vegetation reduction burning is an effective method to remove burnable material by a trained ignition specialist. These burns are only conducted under the right conditions and are closely monitored by firefighters.

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:

Today, 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 attack on the wildfire will also continue where possible.

OCTOPUS CREEK WILDFIRE | OBJECTIVES:

Crews will continue to focus on establishing and reinforcing containment lines in priorities areas. On the north flank, firefighters are attempting to shift the wildfire upslope into the alpine and away from the community.

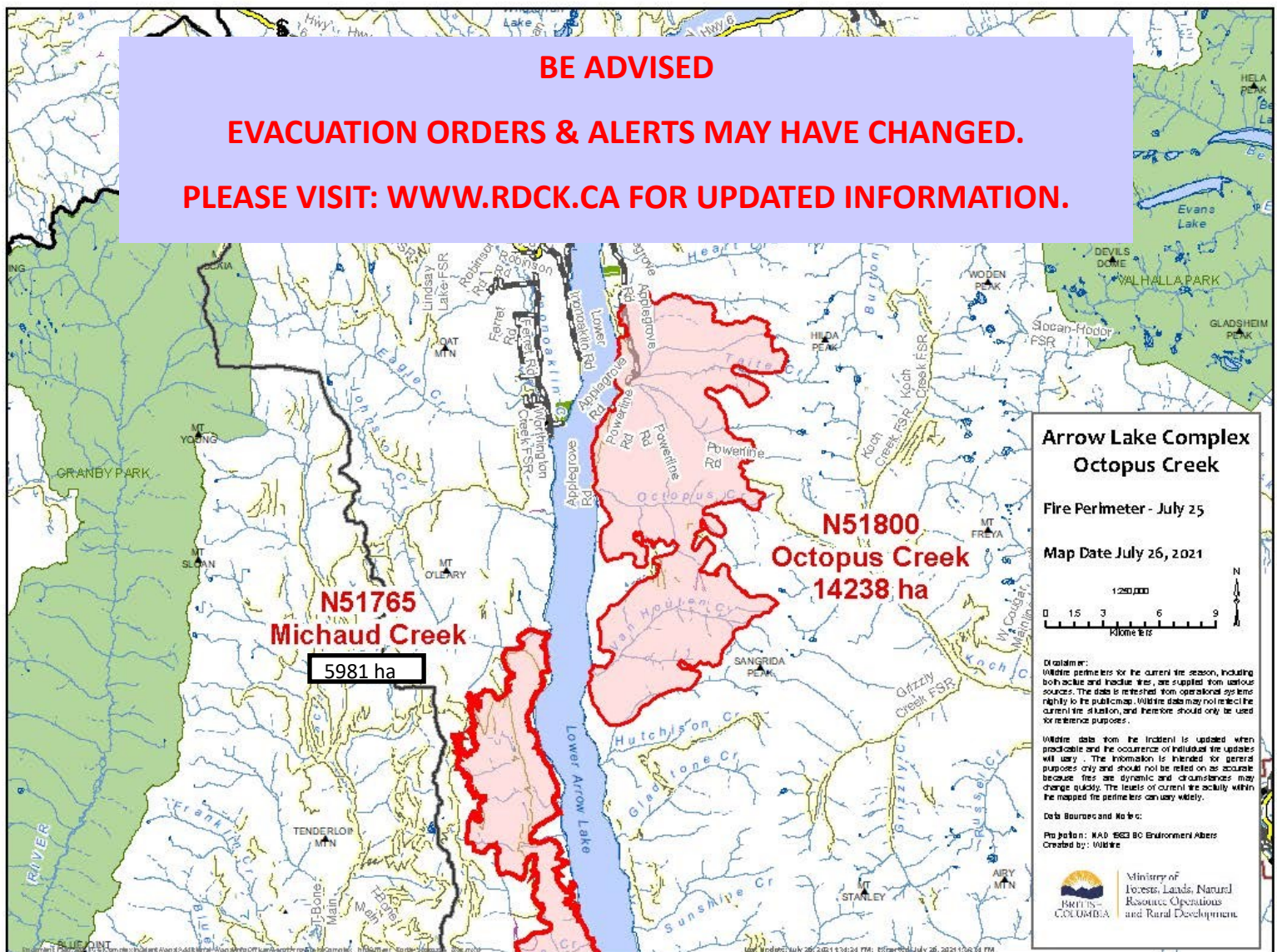
RENATA CREEK WILDFIRE | OBJECTIVES:

On the Renata Creek Wildfire, crews will continue to build and reinforce containment lines that have been established in priority areas.



WILDFIRE UPDATE

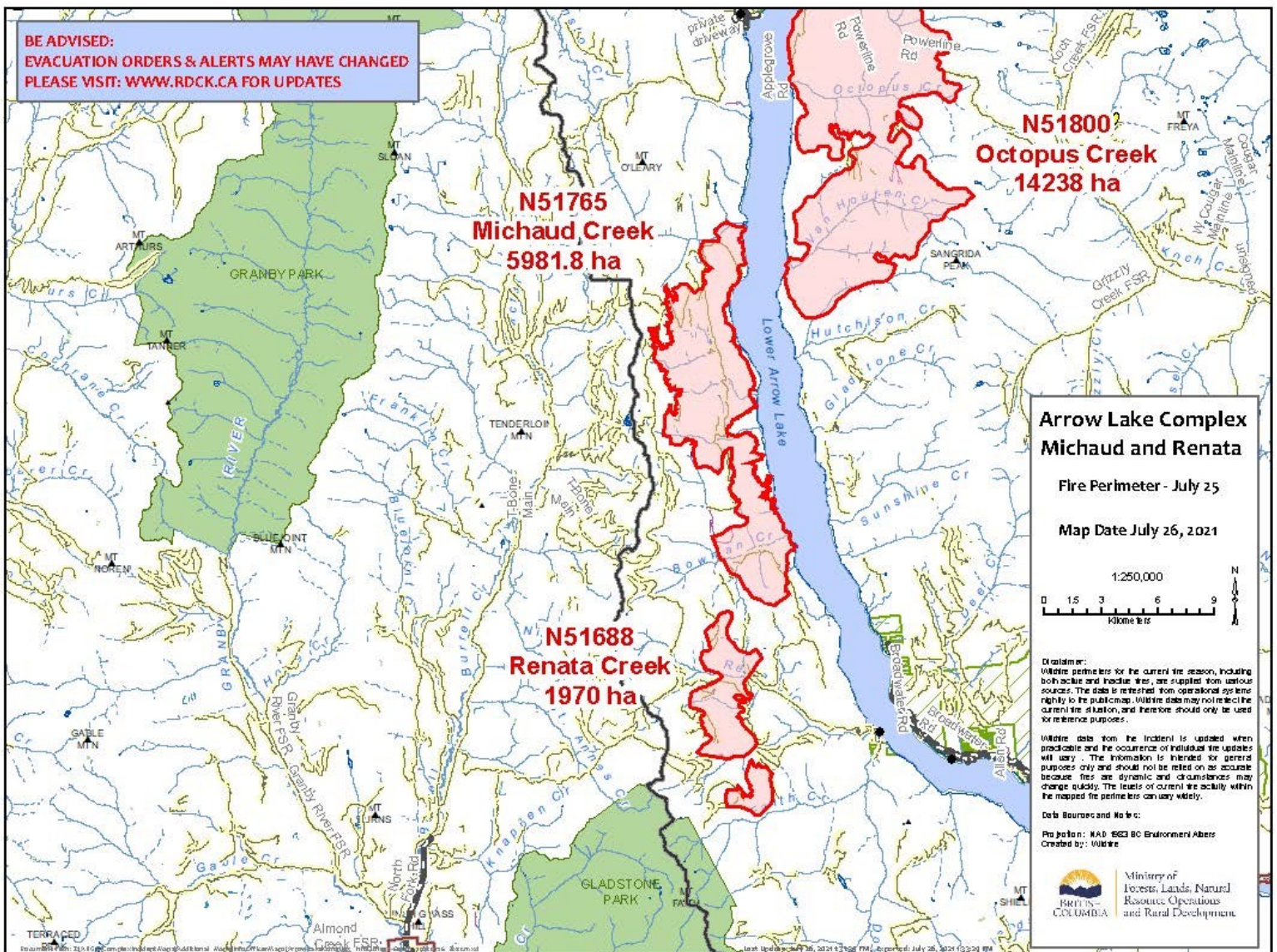
ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX MAPS | NORTH MAP





WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX MAPS | SOUTH MAP





ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE PHOTOS



Alberta (Yellow) and British Columbia (Red) Unit crews catching up before dinner on July 25, 2021.



Alberta Wildfire and British Columbia Wildfire Service firefighters having dinner last night. The crews are out on the line today (July 25, 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