



FIRE NAME
K21001

FIRE SIZE:
36,300 hectares
(estimated)

FIRE STATUS:
Out of Control

Conditions:

- The most active area of the fire again has been the Criss Creek Drainage.
- There was significant growth on the fire the evening of July 3, 2021, moving onto the northeast edge of the Skeetchestn Indian Band's Reserve lands.
- At Cayuse Lake crews are holding the edge of the perimeter with air support and building a guard.
- On the Northwest flank where the fire is burning into where the Elephant Hill Fire burned fire behaviour is dropping off. There is a potential for a 1500 hectare planned ignition to tie in with favourable winds.
- Due to safety concerns security will be stepped up to stop anyone from accessing where the Area Restriction applies.

Objectives:

- Crews will work to establish control lines using heavy equipment from Labonca East flank, heading north and from Carabine Hill south end from Red Lake to Sedge Lake. They will burn off and burn out from established control lines and establish pump hose lays. Damaged roads will be assessed and made passable.
- Structure protection will be established on Deadman drainage. Crews will establish a control line on the east side of community tying in from Criss drainage around Uren Mountain and up the Sabiston Forest Service Road. Crews will look for opportunities to burn off if required.
- Crews continue to work 24 hours in two shifts continuing the assignments of the day shift utilizing heavy equipment to push through guards.

Structural Protection:

- Objectives set out (July 2, 2021) for the Structure Protection Branch in the upcoming days is to triage, setup and maintain sprinkler protection on values, Deadman, Skeetchestn, Seven Lakes, Vidette and all properties in between. Today's priority is the village of the Skeetchestn people.

RESOURCES

Fire fighters—135
Personnel—203 persons
Heavy Equipment—24
Helicopters—19 assigned

AREA ALERT

An Area Alert has been enacted for the area around and including the Sparks Lake Fire. For a map of the area included go [here](#).

EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) has issued an Evacuation Order for a total of 164 properties. The TNRD has also issued an Evacuation Alert for 298 homes on the North Shore of Loon Lake and 287 Electoral Areas "E" (Bonaparte Plateau) and "O" (Lower North Thompson).

Please contact the [Thompson- Nicola Regional District](#) Thompson-Nicola Regional District for more information regarding the Evacuation Order or Alert for the Sparks Lake wildfire.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sparks Lake Information Section | Marg Drysdale and Greg Jonuk
Telephone: 778-364-1265 | Email: BCWS.SparksLakeInfo@gov.bc.ca





WILDFIRE UPDATE

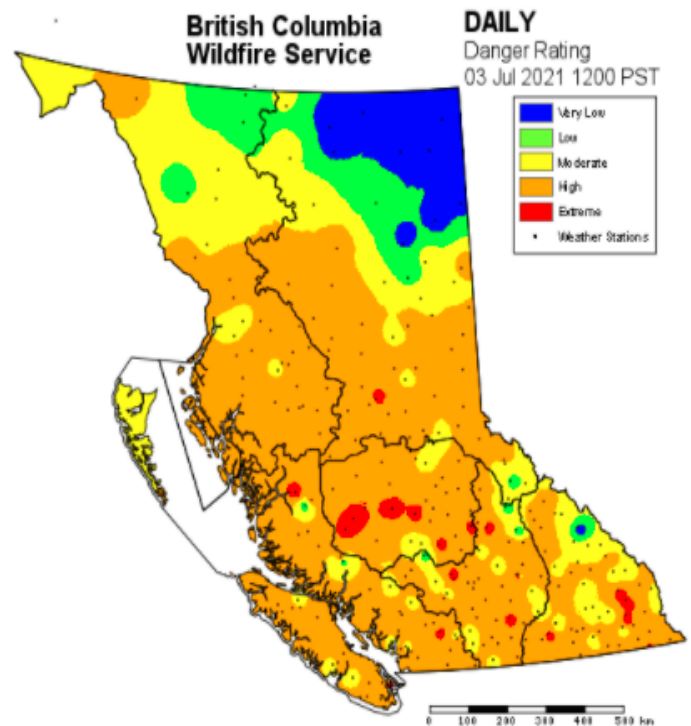
FORECAST:

Issued: July 3, 2021 for July 4, 2021

SYNOPSIS: A weak upper trough is along the BC coast this morning and will be moving inland by this afternoon. The region will be in a west-southwest flow and this may bring a thunderstorm this afternoon or evening. Light to moderate south to west winds will prevail this afternoon, becoming light this evening. Tomorrow the flow becomes more westerly and isolated thunderstorms will be forming. Surface winds will be lighter west to northwest. Temperatures in the low to mid-thirties today will cool near two degrees tomorrow.

TOMORROW: Variable cloud with isolated thunderstorms in the vicinity. High temperature 27 C and minimum RH 28%. Winds NW 10-20 km/h.

OUTLOOK: The west to southwest flow Monday remains weak and disorganized with patchy moisture that may give isolated showers or thunderstorms. Temperatures will be in the mid-twenties with light and variable winds. A ridge builds over the region Tuesday giving more stable conditions and temperatures reaching the high twenties. Patchy moisture may still give some isolated showers. Winds will be light southwest. By Wednesday a weak upper low will be moving from the southwest across the region and will bring heavier and more frequent showers to the region, especially the northern half. Temperatures will cool into the low twenties and winds will be light to moderate west to southwest.



Criss Creek Drainage July 3, 2021
Most active area of the fire.



Preparing for Evacuation

As this period of heightened fire behaviour continues, now is the time to prepare yourself and your property for wildfire. Preparing in advance for a potential wildfire in your area that may result in an Evacuation Alert or Order can make the experience less stressful for you and your loved ones. Take the time now to develop a household evacuation plan, assemble an emergency kit and talk to your neighbours. Visit www.FireSmartBC.ca and www.preparedbc.ca to find resources to help you prepare for wildfire.

You can stay safe during a wildfire by knowing your trusted sources of information, understanding evacuation stages, and looking out for your health and safety. Take time to understand where to find trusted information. If a wildfire is directly threatening your community, the best information sources are your municipality, regional district, band office or local authority. Find out in advance how they'll share vital information, whether it's via Facebook, Twitter, a website or phone.

Preparing Your Home During a Wildfire Event

Knowing what to do to prepare your home when a wildfire is in the vicinity can be overwhelming. What is the most effective way to spend your time and energy if you are on an Evacuation Alert, or expect to be?

First, always follow the advice of your local authority in preparing for evacuation. Time permitting here are some last-minute activities that are most effective in preparing your home:

- If you are able to safely access your roof or gutters—clean all combustible materials so embers do not ignite your roof.
- If you have time remove any stacked wood, dead branches or other combustible materials from the area 0 to 1.5 metres from your home. If you have additional time remove it from 1.5 to 3 metres from around your home.
- Remove any combustible material from under any open decks or staircases and remove any patio furniture or other items to a safer location such as a garage or basement.
- Under extreme conditions you may want to remove, or trim back, any highly combustible tree varieties, such as pine, spruce and junipers.

Remember what you choose to do will depend on the time you have to devote to these activities. Do not delay if you have been asked to Evacuate.

NOTAM Enacted in Vicinity of Sparks Lake Wildfire (K21001)

Restricted Airspace versus NOTAM's (Notice to Airmen)

The airspace around a wildfire, even before firefighting resources arrive onsite, is considered to be flight-restricted under the authority of the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CAR 601.15). 'This covers the wildfire and any airspace within five nautical miles of the fire at an altitude lower than 3,000 feet above ground level.'

NOTAM is an acronym for "Notice to Airmen" and the NOTAM system was officially adopted in 1947. A NOTAM is filed with an aviation authority to alert personnel to "the establishment, condition or change in any aeronautical facility, service, procedure or hazard en route or at a specific location."

Although the airspace above a wildfire is automatically designated as restricted airspace, NOTAMs are not automatically instituted unless there is a need to do so. In addition to airspace restrictions, a NOTAM is issued when normal air traffic is in danger or if that traffic could potentially endanger BC Wildfire Service personnel working on a fire.

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

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 BCWSClaims@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