

Snowy Mountain (K51238)

This information is current as of:	August 10, 2018
Incident Commander (IC)	Glen Burgess
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Fire camp	Princeton Fire Base
Incident overview	<p>This wildfire is estimated at 12,219 hectares in size and is classified as Out of control. The fire remains to the west of Chopaka Road, but is burning in a southward direction and the south flank is approximately 3 km from the U.S. border. The BC Wildfire Service Incident Management Team assigned to the Snowy Mountain Fire is working collaboratively with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. This wildfire requires this degree of involvement due to the fire's proximity to the border and the expectation that the fire will continue to move south if prevailing strong winds come from the north. The BC Wildfire Service also has structural protection specialists working to demob on this wildfire.</p>
Weather forecast	<p>Today (Friday): Smoke associated with a thermal belt inversion near 1500m dissipating overnight tonight. Mainly sunny with increasing convective cloud later in the day. Risk of a late evening thunderstorm with brief wind gusts to 60 km/h.</p> <p>In the valley bottom, a high temperature near 34°C and low RH near 18%. Forecasted winds S 10-15 km/h with late day gusts to 25 km /h. Gusty overnight winds possible with incoming instability.</p> <p>For higher elevations, high temperature near 27°C, min. RH values in the mid twenties. Forecasted S-SW winds 10-15 km/h with afternoon gusts to 25 km/h. Winds may gust to 35 km/h by the evening. Gusty overnight winds possible with incoming instability.</p> <p>Tomorrow : Increasing convective cloudiness and trending cooler. Scattered thunderstorms. Some dry early but thunderstorms becoming increasingly wet. Gusty south winds with afternoon gusts to 40 km/h. Brief gusts to 70 km/h near thunderstorm activity. Valley bottom temperatures in the low 30's°C with 20-30% RH. Upper elevation temps in the mid to upper 20's°C with 20-45% RH</p>
Fire behavior prediction	Similar to the past two days, above the inversion expect active surface fires, torching and short crown bursts in the afternoon especially in closed timber on slope. Afternoon weather conditions with incoming instability allow for convection column development following breakdown of the inversion.
Challenges	Crews continue to face difficult topography. This steep terrain is inoperable in some areas and poses a safety risk to firefighting personnel. Crews are being strategically placed where it is safe and where suppression objectives can be met. The presence of rattlesnakes in the area brings further challenges to crews.
Yesterday's achievements	Burn offs stayed within containment lines. Crews mopped up and completed wet lines on burned areas. Crews continued bucketing action on the fire.
Today's objectives	Crews continue to mop up and patrol freshly burned areas. The BC Wildfire Service will be conducting a small scale planned ignition this afternoon. This operation is being conducted to tie the fire perimeter in to a natural control line and will be ignited in the NE. It will be visible from the communities of Keremeos and Cawston, as well as to anyone travelling along Highway 3.

Definitions: 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) that 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:	Indicates that the fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.
Out:	Indicates that the fire has been extinguished.