BC Wildfire Service

August 8, 2022

WILDFIRE UPDATE

FIRE NAME	FIRE SIZE:	FIRE STATUS:
Keremeos Creek (K50863)	5903 hectares (estimated)	Out of Control

RESOURCES:

245 wildland firefighters are assigned to this fire working with an additional 160 structural protection personnel from fire departments across BC for a total crew complement of 405 firefighters. Structure protection apparatus includes 21 fire engines and 15 water tenders.
16 helicopters and 43 pieces of heavy equipment are also assigned.

UPDATES:

Status: Conditions were favourable again overnight and crews continued patrols, monitoring and hotspotting in the interface, Highway 3A and along key sections of the guard. Burning debris continues to fall overnight and be promptly actioned where safe to do so. There has been no fire damage on structures through the overnight period.

Today will be sunny with a max temperature of 29 C and minimum RH of 18%. Winds are expected to be light southwest to southeast this afternoon. An upper ridge remains over the region, spurring hot and dry conditions under a stable airmass. This morning there is an inversion near 1600 metres, which will break near 10h00. Venting will be good.

Assignments: Planned ignitions were carried out successfully again yesterday and the new control lines are holding well. When the inversion lifts today, crews will continue planned ignitions to fortify and consolidate key sections of hand and machine guard on the western and northern flanks of the fire. Strong gains were made in the field yesterday and those gains are holding.

Today crews continue to apply direct attack and ignition operations to achieve clean black containment, working to encircle the fire along the western and northern flanks thanks to increasingly stable lines on the southern and eastern sides of the fire. Key work areas today include Olalla FSR, Green Mountain Road to the north, the Apex Mountain Resort area, Cedar Creek, and Dividend Mountain.

Helicopters and an ignition specialist will be on site again today. Hand ignitions will continue to bring the fire down to safe, workable ground for crews and are crucial for creating reliable containment. During operations, increased fire activity and smoke may be visible from Olalla, Keremeos and Penticton.

K50863—August 7, Danger tree north of Ollala.

EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

BC Wildfire Service has worked with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Village of Keremeos, Penticton Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band and Okanagan Nation Alliance to provide information to keep residents safe.
Recommendations for Evacuation Orders and Alerts are based on current and forecasted conditions to proactively keep people safe, and so BCWS can actively work the fire. For more information about Evacuation Orders and Alerts go to: Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Village of Keremeos, and Penticton Indian Band.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Information Officer: Marg Drysdale **Media:** Bryan Zandberg | Hours: 0800-2000

Phone: (778) 362-4872 | Email: BCWS.KeremeosCreekINFO@gov.bc.ca

www.bcwildfire.ca BC Forest Fire Info @BCGovFireInfo www.firesmartbc.ca

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WILDFIRE UPDATE

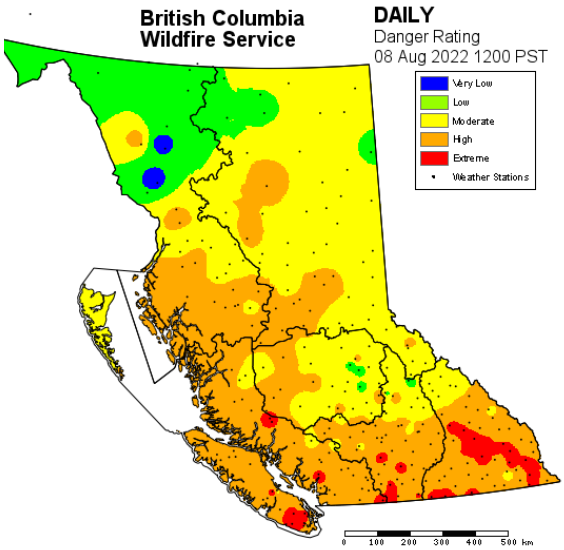
FORECAST:

SYNOPSIS: An upper ridge will be over the region today and tomorrow giving warm and dry conditions under a stable airmass. A surface ridge pushing into the region will give light southwest to southeast winds this afternoon and light northerly winds tomorrow.

Tuesday: Mainly sunny. MAX TEMP 30. MIN RH 22%.

OUTLOOK: Warm and dry Tuesday with temperatures reaching near 30 C. Possible isolated thunderstorms with dry lightning Wednesday and Thursday caused by subtropical moisture from an upper low off the Oregon and Washington coast. Temperatures will cool slightly.

FIRE DANGER RATING



Safety for Our Crews

We would like to ask all residents that if they are driving on **ANY** roads in the vicinity of the Keremeos Creek Wildfire to slow down. Crews and equipment are being moved using road in the area. Please slow down and stay alert!

Helpful Resources

A great resource for anyone on evacuation alert is the FireSmart's

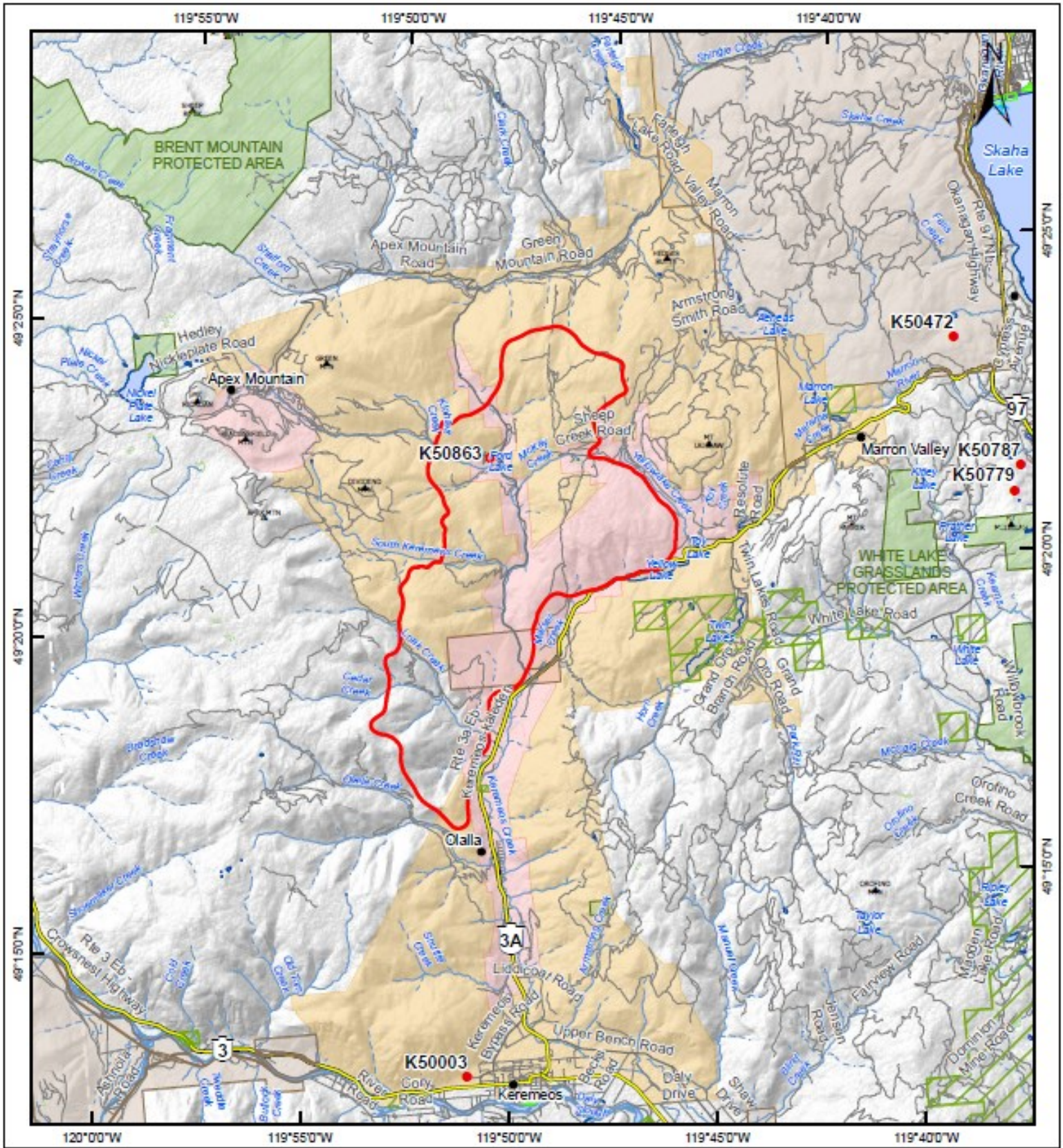
Last–Minute Checklist for Protecting Your Home and Property from Wildfire:

BC Wildfire App:

The official BC Wildfire Service mobile app is available for free download in the App Store and on Google Play.

Additional information is provided in the BCWS Mobile App Reference Guide.

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



- Fire Point
- Populated Place
- Mountain
- Stream
- Fire Perimeter
- Road
- Highway
- Stream - Intermittent
- BC Park, Protected Area, Eco Reserve
- NGO Conservation Land
- First Nation Reserve
- EVACUATION ORDER
- EVACUATION ALERT

K50863 - Keremoes Creek

PUBLIC INFORMATION MAP

Perimeter Date: 2022-08-05
Hectares: 5903 HA

Disclaimer:
Wildfire perimeters for the current fire season, including both active and inactive fires, are supplied from various sources. The data is refreshed from operational systems nightly to the public map. Wildfire data may not reflect the current fire situation, and therefore should only be used for reference purposes.

Wildfire data from the incident is updated when practicable and the occurrence of individual fire updates will vary . The information is intended for general purposes only and should not be relied on as accurate because fires are dynamic and circumstances may change quickly. The levels of current fire activity within the mapped fire perimeters can vary widely.

1:150,000

0 1 2 4 6 Km

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HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- View an interactive map by clicking here.
- **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 **BCWSClaims@gov.bc.ca.**

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES			
BC Wildfire Service	**Emergency Management BC**	**Local municipalities and regional districts**	**First Nations**
- 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 not announce Strategic Evacuation Orders or Alerts. - BCWS does announce Tactical Evacuations. - In the event of an imminent threat to public safety, BCWS can authorize an immediate **Tactical Evacuation** of the affected area.	- 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.	- Local Municipalities and Regional Districts speak directly about **Strategic Evacuation Orders and Alerts in** their respective jurisdictions. - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts do not speak about the status of a wildfire unless the fire occurs within their jurisdiction. For example, if a wildfire starts 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.	- 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

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FIRE STAGES OF CONROL:

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

RANK 1 RANK 2 RANK 3 RANK 4 RANK 5 RANK 6