



WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX

Octopus Creek Wildfire

(N51800)

Size: 18,447 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

34 firefighters, 6 pieces of heavy equipment

Michaud Creek Wildfire

(N51765)

Size: 8,550 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

36 firefighters, 8 pieces of heavy equipment

Renata Creek Wildfire

(N51688)

Size: 3,445 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

12 firefighters, 6 pieces of heavy equipment

There are currently a total of **82 firefighters, 32 personnel and support staff, 30 pieces of heavy equipment and 5 helicopters** assigned to the Arrow Lake Complex. Additional aircraft is available, if requested.

Incident Management Team for the Arrow Lake Wildfire Complex: 17 personnel, and 15 support staff.

WEATHER & FIRE BEHAVIOUR FORECASTS

Today's approaching cold front brings slightly cooler temperature, higher humidity and stronger, variable westerly to northwesterly 15-20 km/h winds. The predicted winds are expected to strengthen throughout the day, with possible 35-45 km/h gusts, then settle into moderate winds this evening. The windy conditions should bring some relief from the smoke; however, as the smoke clears extreme fire activity is expected to return. There is a 30 percent chance of showers toward the north end of the fire area, but even a direct hit from a passing shower might not produce much moisture. A lack of significant precipitation continues to dry out the forest fuels. It is important to stay vigilant and informed on the wildfire situation as conditions can change very quickly. The trend toward lower temperatures and higher humidity is predicted to continue Saturday under a mix of cloud, smoke and a few possible sunny breaks.

STRUCTURE PROTECTION

Structure protection was established early on for Octopus Creek Wildfire and is maintained and monitored by firefighters on the properties that are threatened. Additional structural protection resources are being delivered to the Renata Creek Wildfire today.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Wildfire Information Officer: Victoria Ostendorf/Christi Howes | 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



ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX | OBJECTIVES AND TACTICS

The overall objective of the wildfire complex is to build control lines to prevent the wildfires from approaching values at risk such as communities, properties, infrastructure, watershed and natural resources (for example: cell towers, hydro lines and major transportation corridors). Once the wildfire is contained, firefighters will continue to work the perimeter of the wildfire inward, removing the risk of escaping the anticipated boundaries. Control lines are built using multiple techniques, such as dozers or hand tools, to remove the burnable vegetation. In some cases, crews may use planned ignitions to remove fuel between the control lines and the fire perimeter.

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. Planned ignitions are monitored under the direction of a certified ignition specialist or other qualified personnel to meet pre-determined land management objectives. Opportunities for planned ignition are being explored. The exact timing of these potential burns will depend on weather and site conditions.

At various locations along the wildfire perimeter, crews and heavy equipment will continue to work together to build control lines in priority areas, largely near communities and structures. Where possible, direct attack on the wildfire will also continue.

AREA RESTRICTIONS

The BC Wildfire Service has amended an **Area Restriction Order** for the vicinity of the Octopus Creek wildfire (N51800) and Michaud Creek wildfire (N51765). 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 shares 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.



OCTOPUS CREEK | WILDFIRE UPDATE

On the north side of the fire, increased fire activity continues due to hot and dry conditions, and the smoke cover lifting in the area. There was some growth reported on the northeast side of the fire overnight. However, no constructed control lines were compromised. Firefighters and heavy equipment continue to reinforce the control lines built to protect the community of Fauquier.

On the north, northwest side of the wildfire, firefighters completed more planned hand ignition off the Pin Road and additional ignition is planned for this area today, with the support of aircraft.

On the east side of the fire, firefighters controlled a small spot fire located on the east flank near Mista Peak. Heavy equipment and crews completed control lines in the valley near Koch Creek. Firefighters are planning ignition operations in this area as well. These control lines are intended to prevent the wildfire from spreading east into adjacent valleys.

The fire is slowly creeping each day; however, the crews and equipment continue to reinforce the guards. Additional, heavy equipment is planned to install new guard in areas, once priority lines are set. However, steep terrain has posed challenges to firefighters gaining access in some areas.

MICHAUD CREEK | RENATA CREEK | WILDFIRE UPDATE

Firefighters continue to establish control lines on the north end of the wildfire from Arrow Lake to the Johnson Creek drainage. The objective is to prevent the fire from advancing north, toward the community of Edgewood.

Increased fire activity challenged firefighters in the southeast yesterday, and growth was reported in this area. Due to the extreme conditions, firefighters are reassessing control line areas. Firefighters are also being supported by helicopters and airtankers as visibility allows.

NEW WILDFIRES | ARROW LAKE COMPLEX

Yesterday afternoon, firefighters responded to a new wildfire (N52447) located Sunshine Creek, south of the Octopus Creek Wildfire. This fire is classified as out of control and is estimated to be 4.1 hectares in size. Firefighters, heavy equipment, along with aircraft support (as visibility allows), are working on this fire today.



ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE PHOTOS



Left, Firefighters conducting hand ignition to establish control line on the north, northwest area of the Octopus Creek wildfire.

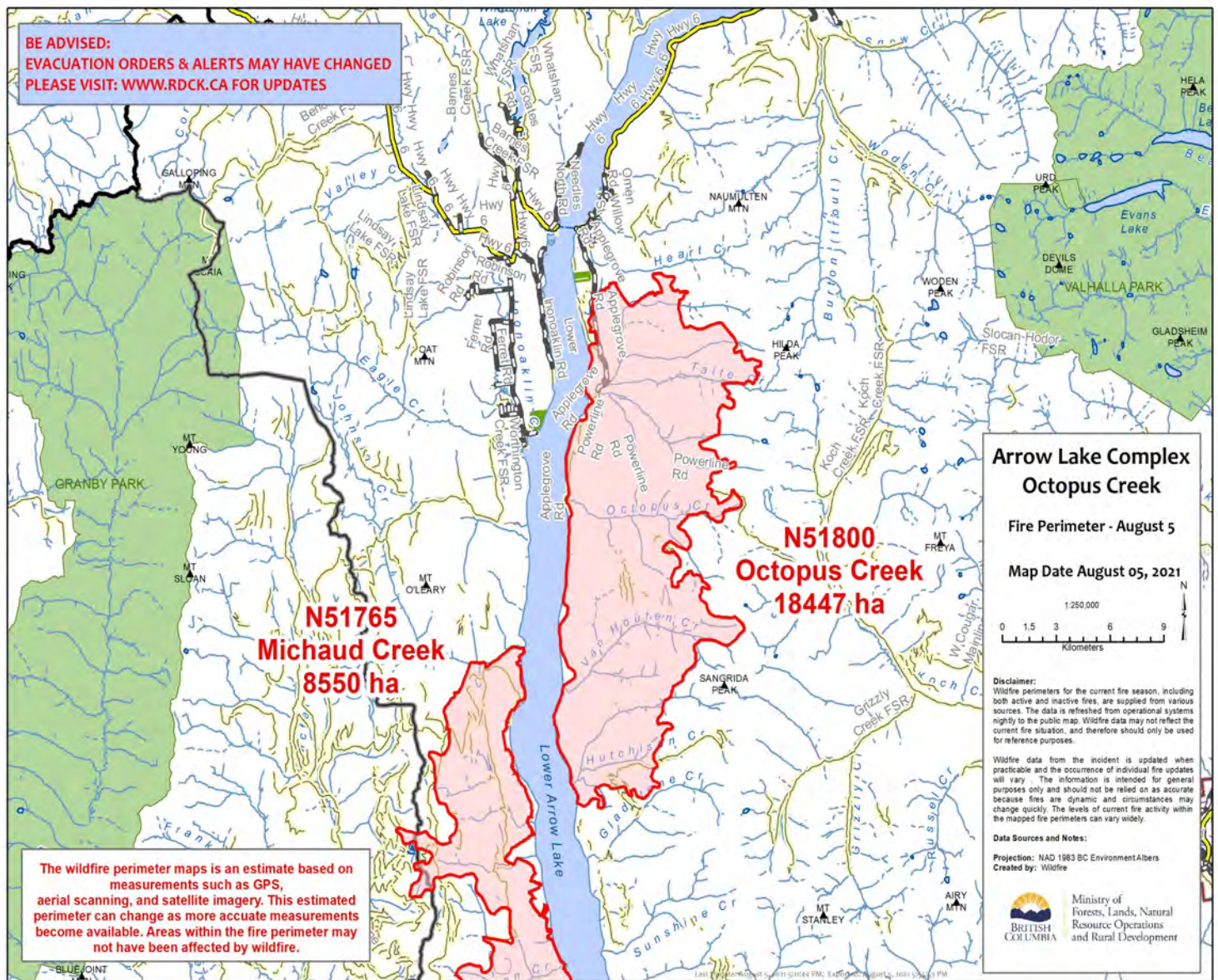
Right, a group photo of firefighters working on the Micheaud Creek wildfire.





WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX MAPS | NORTH MAP



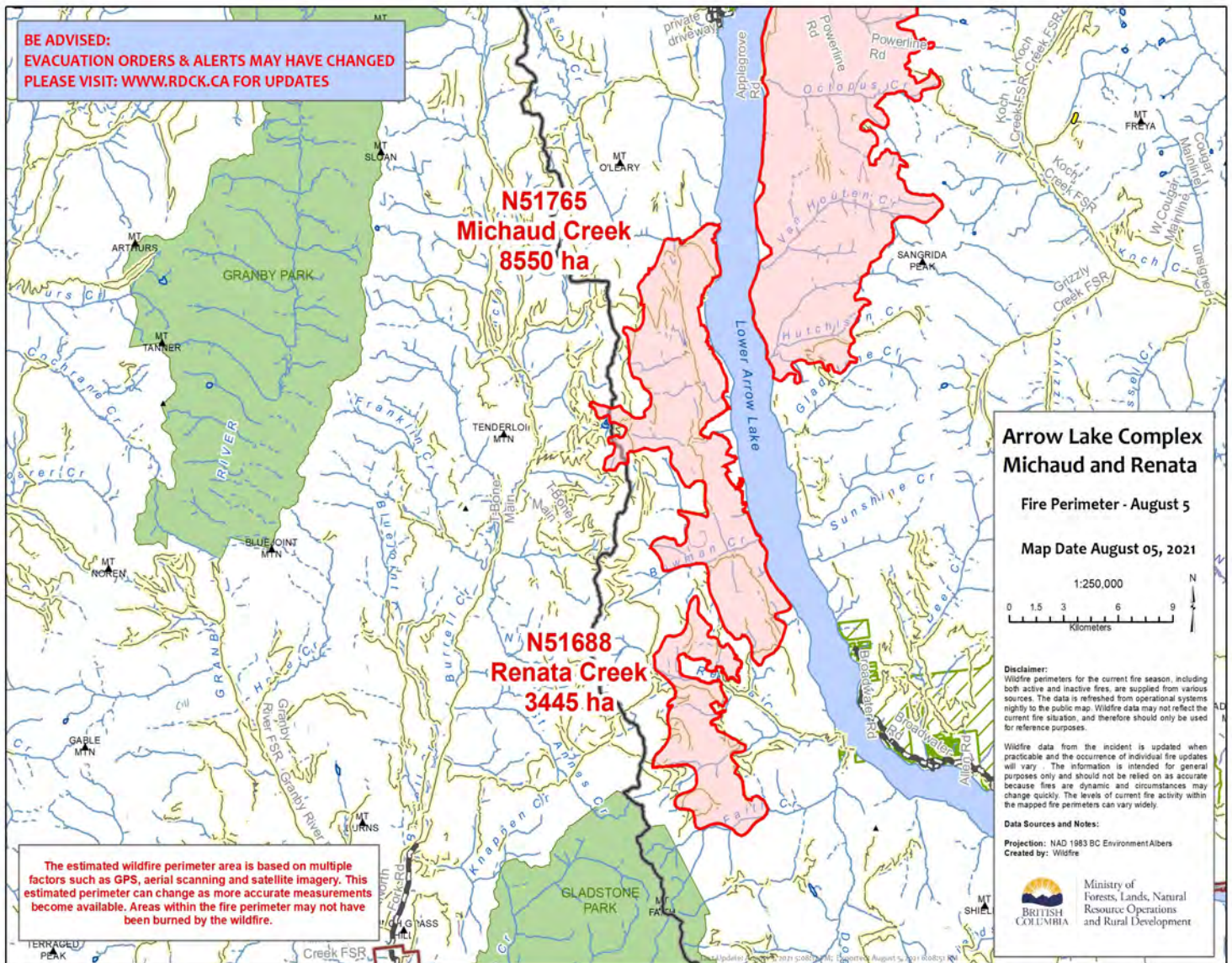
The wildfire perimeter maps is an estimate based on measurements such as GPS, aerial scanning and satellite imagery. This estimated perimeter can change as more accurate measurements become available. Areas within the fire perimeter may not have been affected or burnt by wildfire.

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



WILDFIRE UPDATE

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.

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 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' jurisdiction covers all BC Parks, Crown and private lands, but it 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