



ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX

Octopus Creek Wildfire

(N51800)

Size: 19,292 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

14 firefighters, 3 pieces of heavy equipment

Michaud Creek Wildfire

(N51765)

Size: 12,798 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

42 firefighters, 21 pieces of heavy equipment

An Incident Management Team of 35 personnel and a total of 61 firefighters, 31 pieces of heavy equipment and 6 helicopters are dedicated to the Arrow Lake Complex.

WEATHER & FIRE BEHAVIOUR FORECASTS

Lower temperatures and higher humidity Saturday and Sunday, combined with the moderate showers, limited fire growth across the complex. The decrease in fire behaviour allowed firefighters to access areas of the fire perimeter that were previously unsafe.

Yesterday's, precipitation reports from local rain gauges ranged from 15 mm to 30 mm, indicating different areas of the complex received varying amounts of precipitation. Direct suppression is very effective under these conditions and will remain so for the next few days.

Today, temperatures begin to warm, and the smoke is likely to start seeping back into the area mid-week. Light northwesterly winds at higher elevations are expected this evening and Tuesday.

The recent showers have dampened the forest ground cover; however, the forest fuels remain dry due to a lack of significant precipitation. A return to hotter, drier weather is forecast for the next eight to ten days. It is important to stay vigilant and informed on the wildfire situation as conditions can change very quickly.

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



OCTOPUS CREEK | WILDFIRE UPDATE

Firefighters, helicopters and heavy equipment were able to continue making great progress on the north side, creating and reinforcing control lines to protect the community of Fauquier. A control line is a combination of human-made fire lines and/or natural fire barriers (e.g. roads, rivers). Crews continue to further assess this area and look for opportunities to conduct ignitions in order to create and strengthen control lines when conditions allow.

On the east side of the fire, firefighters, heavy equipment and airtankers continue their work on the control lines in the valley, near Koch Creek. The control lines are being created to prevent the wildfire from spreading east into adjacent valleys. When conditions permit, firefighters plan to complete ignition operations in this area as well.

MICHAUD CREEK | WILDFIRE UPDATE (*Renata Creek has combined with Michaud Creek*)

Firefighters, helicopters and heavy equipment took advantage of the reprieve in weather again yesterday with some parts of the fire receiving 15 mm of rain. With the lighter winds and subdued fire behaviour crews were able to safely continue establishing control lines on the north end of the wildfire, along the Johnson Creek drainage to Bear Paw Lake. The objective of these control lines is to protect the community of Edgewood.

In the south, southeast area of the Michaud Creek wildfire, firefighters and heavy equipment were able to construct new control lines. These lines have also helped firefighters gain more access to the fire. Firefighters are also planning to conduct ignition operations if weather conditions allow as to aid in establishing a control line as to protect the community of Renata. Heavy equipment has also been able to continue establish control lines and reinforce safety zones for firefighters.

NEW WILDFIRES | ARROW LAKE COMPLEX

On August 5, firefighters responded to a new wildfire (N52447) located near Sunshine Creek, south of the Octopus Creek wildfire. This fire is classified as Being Held (BH) and is estimated to be 48 hectares in size. With the improved visibility and minimal fire behaviour due to weather conditions, firefighters continued to establish control lines with the support of aircraft. Heavy equipment, assisted by airtankers, was used by crews to establish a control line on the east side of the fire, in order to prevent the fire from spreading in that direction.

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

Crews observed fire behaviour on the Michaud and Octopus fire at a rank of 1-2 yesterday.

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



ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX | OBJECTIVES AND TACTICS

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

Opportunities for planned ignitions are being explored on the fires within the complex. Planned ignitions are essential in assisting in the containment of 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. The exact timing of these potential burns will depend on weather and site conditions.

STRUCTURE PROTECTION

Structure protection was established early on for the Octopus Creek wildfire and is being maintained and monitored by firefighters. Crews have also have structural protection in the community of Renata.

AREA RESTRICTIONS

The BC Wildfire Service has amended an **Area Restriction Order** for the vicinity of the Octopus Creek wildfire (N51800) and the 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 alerts in the vicinity of these wildfires. The most current information is available at 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) uses this wildfire information, along with critical information from local authorities and protection services, to make their evacuation and alert decisions.



DID YOU KNOW...

- Fire retardants, “foam” and water can all be used to slow down a wildfire’s growth and to support the efforts of ground crews to contain the fire.
- Nearly 90% of the retardant solution is water. The main active ingredient in the retardant BC Wildfire Service uses is ammonium polyphosphate fertilizer, which is the fire-retarding component. Fire retardants also contain small quantities (5 to 15%) of performance additives.
- Retardant is typically coloured red with an iron oxide (rust) mixture to increase its visibility for air crews and ground personnel.

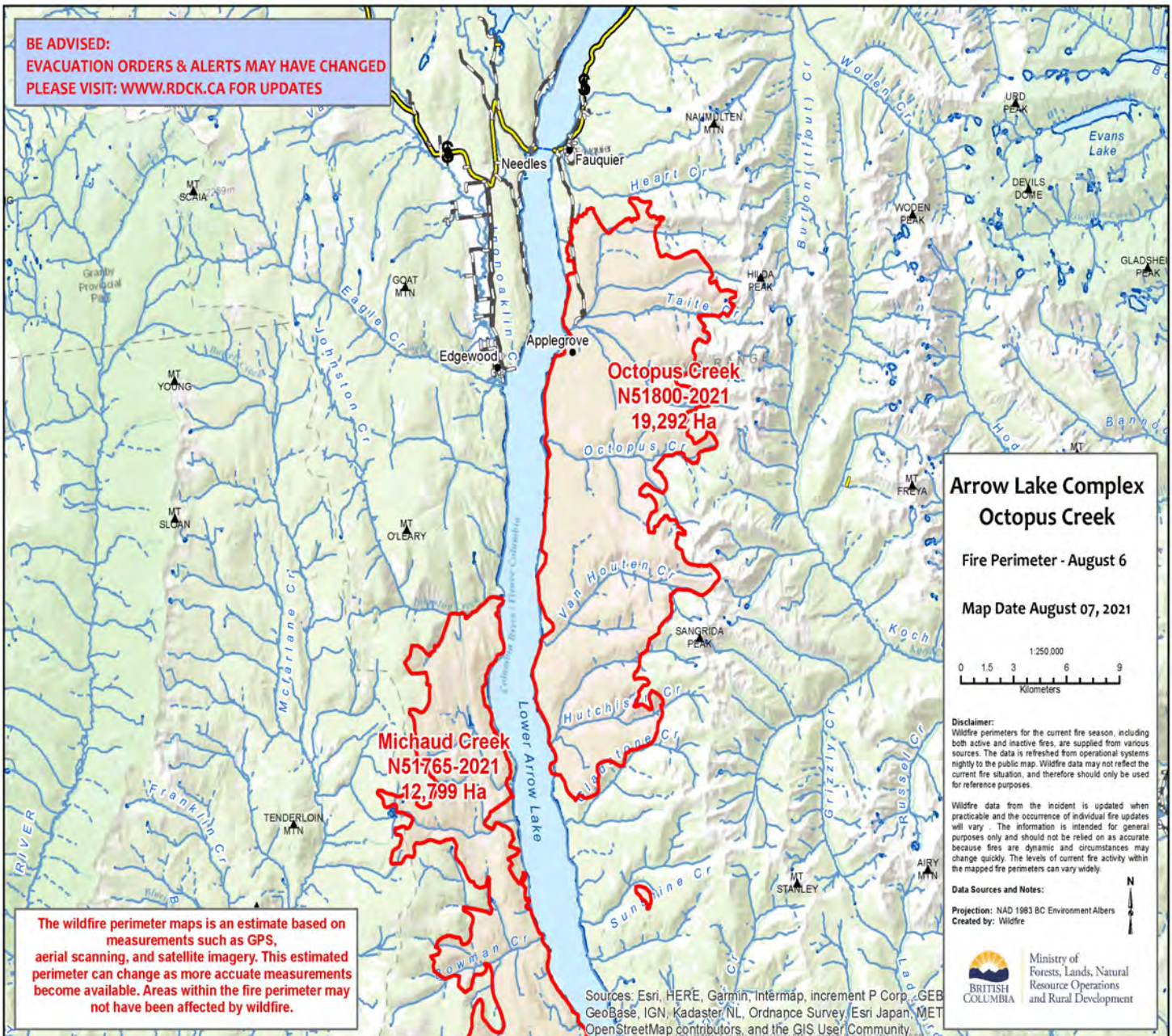


Spot a wildfire, smoke or illegal fire activity? Call 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on your cellphone.



WILDFIRE UPDATE

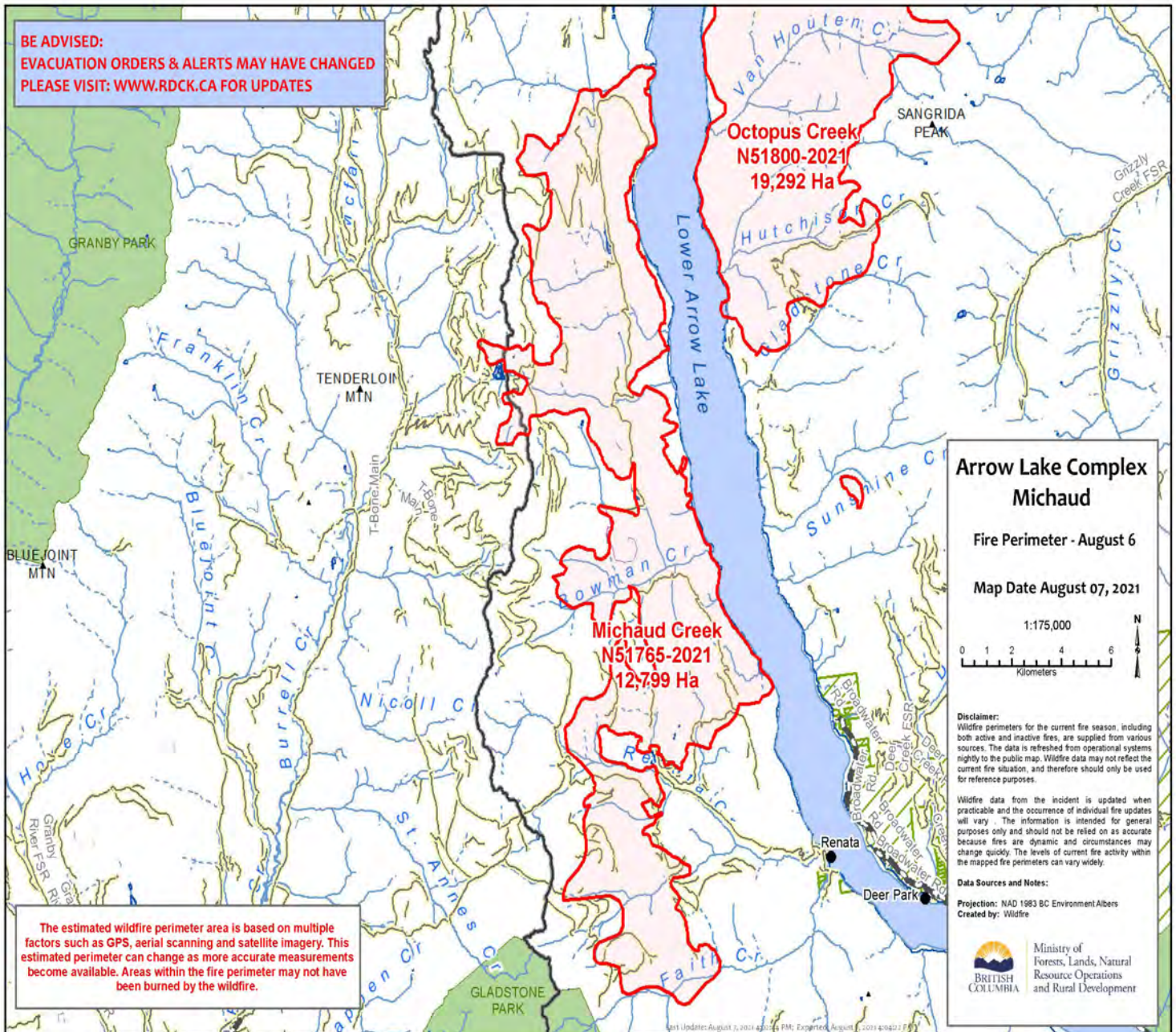
ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX MAPS | NORTH MAP





WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX MAPS | SOUTH MAP



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