



White Rock Lake
(K61884)

FIRE SIZE
32,000 hectares (estimate)

FIRE STATUS
Out of Control

This fire was first discovered on Sunday, July 13, 2021 and is approximately 34 kilometres northwest of Vernon.

CONDITIONS:

Conditions on site are extremely smoky, which is hampering the ability for aircraft to fly and challenging suppression efforts.

Showers with a chance of thunderstorms are expected today bringing clouds and temperatures down to 20 degrees. Extreme burning conditions will remain until additional moisture and clouds come to the area. Dependent on precipitation amounts, there may be a slight reprieve in fire behaviour over the next 48-hours.

Crews are continuing to work towards safe, achievable operational objectives under extremely adverse conditions. Public and first responder safety remains BC Wildfire Service's top priority. To protect the safety of the public and first responders, the BC wildfire Service will continue to evaluate the need for further evacuation order and alert recommendations.

RESOURCES:

Firefighters – 99

Support Staff – ten

Heavy Equipment – 39

Danger tree assessors/fallers – seven

Helicopters – ten assigned

Incident Management Team

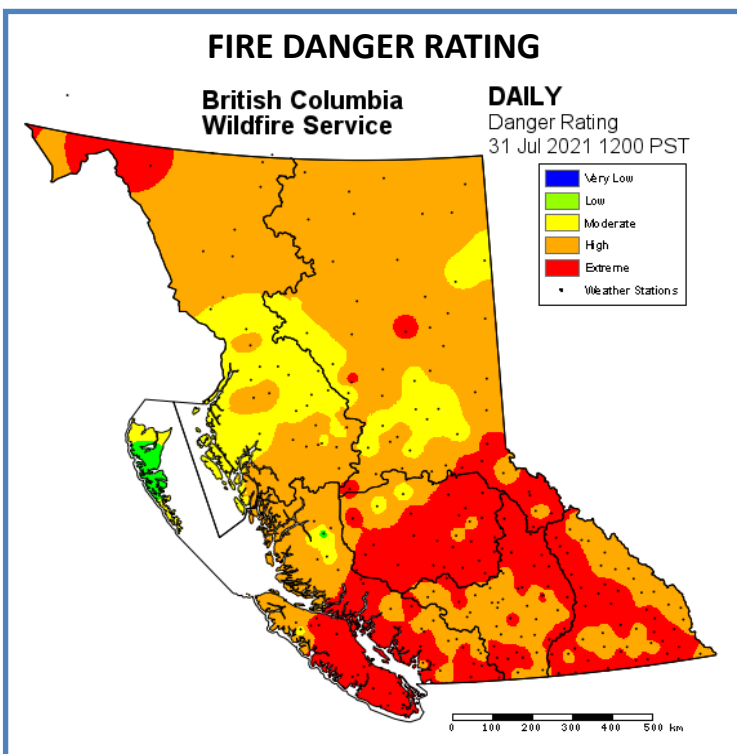
STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

Personnel – 41 from 12 fire departments

Personnel are remaining on site through the night to provide structure protection continuity. Structural protection personnel continue to assess critical infrastructure and properties from Monte Lake towards the Falkland Corridor via Highway 97, to evaluate resource and equipment requirements. Structure protection personnel are preparing to deploy structure protection apparatuses in the community of Monte Lake and Pinaus Lake as required.

AREA RESTRICTION ORDER:

The BC Wildfire Service has implemented an Area Restriction Order in the vicinity of the White Rock Lake wildfire. The size of the Area Restriction Order reflects the need to protect the public in areas where there are ongoing fire suppression activities. For more information, please review the [White Rock Lake Area Restriction Order](#) information bulletin and [map](#).



EVACUATION

ALERTS & ORDERS:

Evacuation Alerts and Orders have been implemented by:

The [Thompson-Nicola Regional District](#) (TNRD),

The [Columbia-Shuswap Regional District](#) (CSRD),

The [Regional District of North Okanagan](#) (RDNO),

The [Okanagan Indian Band](#) (OKIB) and;

The [Regional District of Central Okanagan](#) (RDCO).

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



OBJECTIVES:

The BC Wildfire Service continues to work with industry partners to establish and reinforce control lines, and to protect critical infrastructure. Local industry knowledge is invaluable to operational success. Last night, heavy equipment worked through the night to ensure operational continuity. Night shifts allow personnel to make progress in areas that would otherwise be inaccessible due to volatile fire behaviour during daylight hours.

Last night, aggressive overnight fire growth was observed along the south flank where much of the fire perimeter crossed over the Salmon River FSR. Where feasible, heavy equipment has been working towards developing secondary containment lines south of this flank.

On the northwest and southwest flanks, crews will continue patrolling the completed machine guard and work on extinguishing any spots that may have crossed the guard. Crews are supporting these guards with hose lay and a water delivery system. Heavy equipment is also working to protect this guard, as well as ensure access is maintained to Monte-Pratt Road.

Northeast of the fire perimeter, crews and heavy equipment are continuing to work along a stretch of machine guard to contain fire that comes down the ridge line and constructing a fuel free handguard to tie together pre-established control lines along this flank.

To help secure the control lines, crews will be using low intensity hand ignitions to remove any remaining combustible fuels between the control lines and the existing fire perimeter. This technique is frequently used to extend the amount of non-combustible fuels ahead of the main fire, helping to further secure the control line.

A ground-based retardant unit continues to reinforce control lines east of the fire perimeter. This unit is a large truck that can apply the same type of retardant used by airtankers to help slow the spread of the fire, allowing equipment and crews time and space to safely work along pre-constructed control lines. To ensure personnel safety, crews are being supported by danger tree assessors/fallers.

Ten helicopters are assigned to the White Rock Lake wildfire and will be delivering water to problematic areas of the fire to support ground suppression efforts. The helicopter fleet includes a Sikorsky 64 SkyCrane helicopter, which has a 2,650-gallon tank that is fillable in less than one-minute. Additional air support is available and will be utilized as required, should conditions allow.



Extremely smoky conditions continue to be challenging for observing fire growth and activity from the air.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

North Okanagan Complex Information Section

Telephone: 778-694-8325 | Email: BCWS.NorthOkanaganComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca



www.bcwildfire.ca



[BC Forest Fire Info](#)



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www.firesmartbc.ca

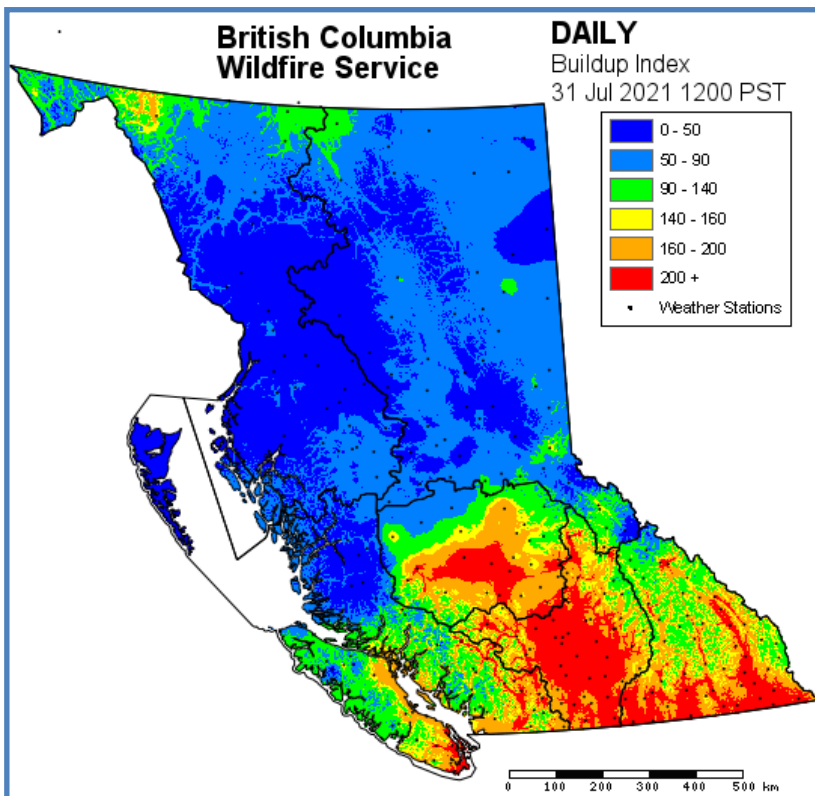


SOUNDCLOUD UPDATE:



Scott Rennick, Incident Commander, provides an operational briefing for the White Rock Lake wildfire on August 1, 2021:

<https://soundcloud.com/bcgov/sets/bc-wildfire-service>



HOW DOES FUEL DRYNESS AFFECT FIRE BEHAVIOUR?

The [Buildup Index](#) (BUI) is a numeric rating of the total amount of fuel available for combustion on the landscape. The BUI takes into account the moisture content of medium to large-sized woody materials, as well as seasonal drought effects on forest fuels. It helps to determine how volatile forest fuels are, how intensely and deeply they will burn and how difficult it might be to suppress a fire in a given fuel type. As the amount of fuel available for combustion on the landscape increases, fire behaviour becomes increasingly more volatile and, as a result, makes it increasingly more difficult for crews to successfully contain a wildfire. BUI values are substantially higher than seasonal averages for much of the Okanagan and parts of Southern B.C. As shown on the Buildup Index map for July 31, 2021, the BUI throughout most of the Kamloops Fire Centre is above 200, indicating that fuels are highly volatile and difficult to suppress.

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