

White Rock Lake August 15 08:00 Operations Update

Division Yankee (north flank): ~100 wildland firefighters, 8 heavy equipment, aerial support



Small scale ground ignitions on the Grange FSR in Division Y to hold heavier fire behaviour on Aug 13.

On the northern flank, crews successfully utilized planned ignitions to bring the fire to established control lines on August 12 and continue to mop up throughout Div Y. Crews and heavy equipment have completed line on the east side of the finger and were able to successfully establish line across the top towards Paxton Lake and connect to Hwy 97. There is a hose lay throughout the north perimeter completed now. Mop up is occurring along the Adelphi Rd to Woods Lake, the Grange FSR to Douglas Rd, Biancotto Lake to Paxton Lake, along the Private FSR, and by structures on Douglas Rd. Danger tree assessor fallers are working along the Douglas Rd, Private FSR, and Paxton Valley road.

A contingency guard from Biancotto Lake to the east side of Martin Mt continues to be constructed. Another contingency guard is being built south of the powerlines along the Boleau Lake Rd.

The potential of a 3km fire break, with a mass water system deployed within, from Pillar Lake northwest is being explored. If feasible, this will act as a large barrier to limit the potential of fire growth towards communities northeast of the fire.

Construction on the Martin contingency line, along Duck Range Road to Martin Mtn was completed on August 12. This will act as a secondary control line should the fire move north.

Division Alpha (south-west flank): aerial resources

Crews are continuing to monitor the south east flank for any excursions over control lines. Control lines along the south of the fire perimeter were completed using a combination of Forest Service Roads, lakes, and pre-existing machine guards. A 50km contingency guard south of the perimeter from Fintry in the east to south of Chapperon Lake in the west has been constructed. This will act as a second contingency guard should the fire progress south. The fire has shown low fire behaviour over the last few days.

Division Bravo (east flank): 82 wildland firefighters, 3 heavy equipment, aerial resources

On the east flank, crews and structure protection personnel continue to strengthen containment lines above communities in the Westside Rd area where the fire is close to properties. Crews are continuing along the fire perimeter and direct attacking using water and hand ignitions to tie in lines and secure the perimeter. Heavy equipment will continue to construct dozer line from Birch Creek to Naswhito Creek and use aircraft to cool the fire above the guard construction. A machine guard is being constructed from Beau Rd to the Cherry orchard on the north east corner of Div B. Planned ignitions continue to occur following machine guard being built. This has proven very successful on this fire which has

primarily been a wind driven fire. Continued growth mainly occurs from spotting driven by sustained high winds. By removing the fuel from the guard to the active wildfire perimeter in small sections, the chance of spotting is greatly reduced. The night shift in Div B will continue the ignitions along Haughten Rd and mop up throughout the night when fire behaviour is minimal.

Division Zulu (west flank): aerial resources and heavy equipment

On the west flank, heavy equipment will work on securing the excursion over in the Foley Road area working back towards the Monte-Pratt. Div Zulu has been exhibiting low fire behaviour and control lines have not been challenged. With the predicted direction of SW and W winds, this area of the fire will be active within the perimeter only today.

Aerial Resources

There are 16 helicopters assigned to White Rock Lake. The helicopter fleet includes a Sikorsky 64 SkyCrane helicopter, 'Lucille', which has a 10,000-litre tank that is fillable in less than one-minute. Lucille consumes up to 22,00 litres of fuel a day, can travel at up to 200 kilometers per hour, and has a range of 400 kilometers.



There are also four Kamov heavy helicopters, two Sikorsky 61 heavy helicopters, and a B212 heavy helicopter engaged in bucketing on the fire. Additional air support is available and will be utilized as required, should conditions allow.