White Rock Lake August 16 15:30 Operations Update

Due to the significant fire activity yesterday, every division is reassessing containment lines for breaches and creating objectives going forward. Crews, equipment, and aerial resources will continue to defend remaining guards and containment lines. Structure protection and BCWS crews are working 24/7 around affected communities.

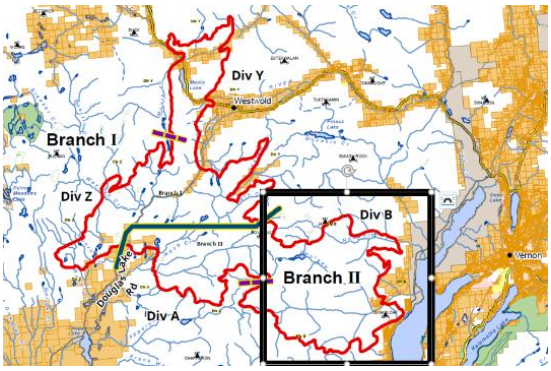
The wildfire experienced growth on all flanks, but the most significant growth was in the northeast, from Naswhito Creek across Six Mile Creek, and on the east flank down into Okanagan Indian Band IR#1 and across Westside road in the Fintry Park / Ewing area.

BCWS firefighters actioning the wildfire in the Killiney area overnight were unable to leave the active fire zone until 2 a.m., due to aggressive fire behaviour. While the crews were pulled off the fire for safety reasons, travel along local roads was not safe. Crews sheltered in place in the area until conditions improved enough to access egress routes.

Overnight crews were re-organized and distributed to work on objectives at OKIB at the Six Mile area and on the southern part of the fire along Okanagan Lake near Fintry Park / Ewing. There was extensive and significant structural impact along Westside Road last night.

Poor visibility today, due to smoke, has grounded all fixed-wing aircraft including air tankers. Helicopters are flying and assisting in suppression response where needed.

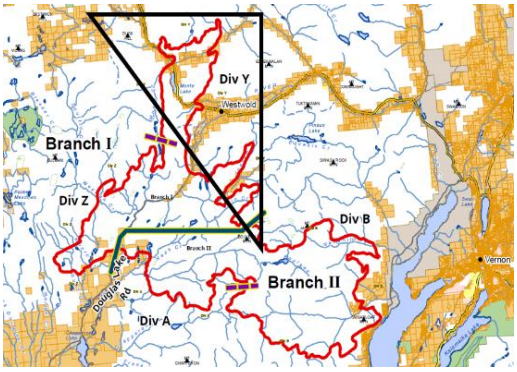
<u>Division Bravo (east flank): 80 wildland firefighters, 3 heavy equipment, aerial resources</u>



The southeast, east and northeast location of the wildfire is currently displaying vigorous fire behaviour. Firefighters with the BC Wildfire Service along with Structure Protection personnel are currently in Six Mile, Ewing and Killiney actioning the wildfire and applying structure protection. Structures are currently being threatened.

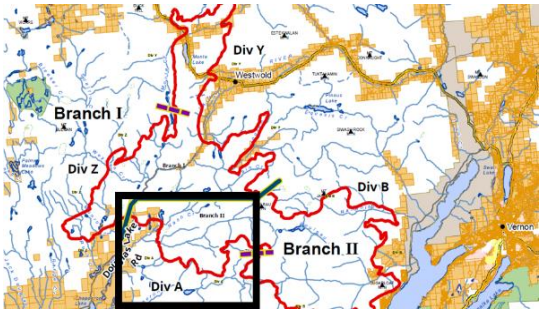
Heavy equipment operators are currently constructing new guard lines. Helicopters are assisting with bucketing objectives to support the ground crews. All fixed-wing aircraft is grounded due to thick smoke in the area.

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



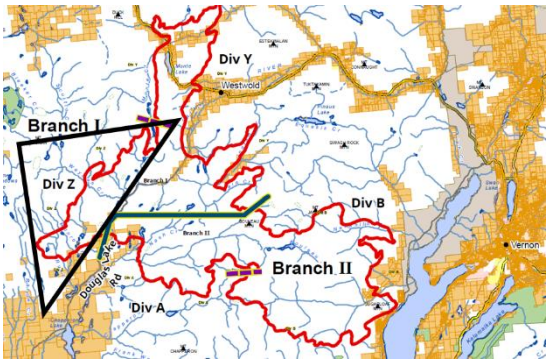
A planned ignition completed in recent days helped hold the north flank overnight. Mopping up in the area of that ignition continues today. Firefighters are actively working to suppress the wildfire and are receiving support from helicopters bucketing over head. Structure Protection Specialists are assessing the needs for Structure Protection Units and applying where applicable.

Division Alpha (south-west flank): aerial resources



Increased fire activity was observed along the whole southern perimeter of the wildfire last evening. Wildfire Officers are assessing the area and will develop new containment line objectives for heavy equipment operators. Safety of personnel working is first priority.

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



The BC Wildfire Service is assessing the area and creating new objectives, after growth experienced overnight. Heavy equipment operators will be constructing a new guard line and local community members, with firefighting certifications, are currently mopping-up under the direction of BCWS.

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.