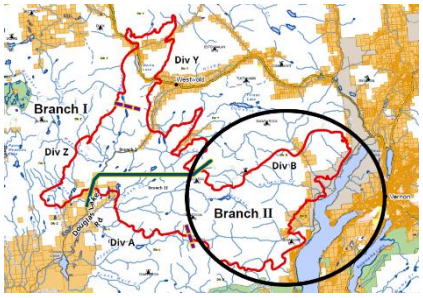
White Rock Lake August 17 14:00 Operations Update

The BC Wildfire Service welcomes 80 firefighters from Quebec to the White Rock Lake fire camp. They have joined Division Yankee and Division Bravo and are currently on location fighting the fire.

Wildfire Officers have now re-established work objectives in active suppression response areas after experiencing fire activity on all areas of the wildfire on Aug 15. Crews, equipment, and aerial resources will continue to defend remaining guard and containment lines that are still operational.

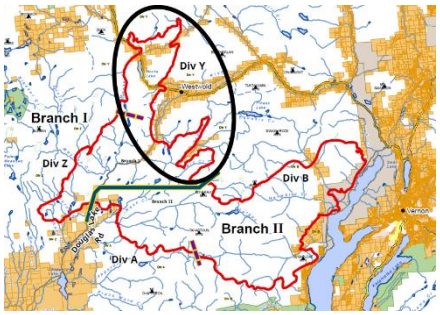
Structure Protection Specialists and BCWS crews are working 24/7 around the communities most affected by the wind event on Aug. 15. The most significant growth was in the northeast, from Naswhito Creek across Six Mile Creek, and on the east flank down into Okanagan Indian Band IR#1 (OKIB) and across Westside road in the Fintry Park/Ewing area. Crews continue 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. The wildfire has grown significantly to the northeast where new containment lines and work objectives have been developed and are currently being implemented.

Division Bravo (east flank): 167 wildland firefighters, 3 heavy equipment, aerial resources



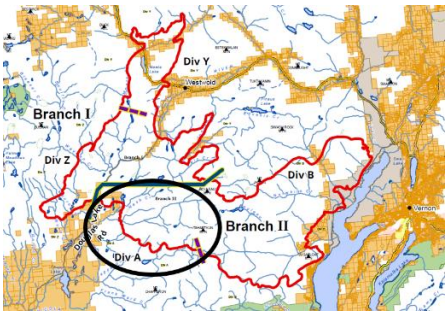
Firefighters, equipment, and aerial resources will continue to defend guards and containment lines. Crews continue working on containment line construction near communities and are actively mopping up hot spots. Structure protection is being assessed and applied where necessary and maintained elsewhere. Wildfire Officers are continuously assessing fire progression and its path to develop a plan for any breaches of the containment line. Heavy equipment operators are building a guard line at Irish Creek where a planned ignition was conducted yesterday to reinforce the guard. Significant growth of the wildfire was observed on the northeast flank since the wind event on Sunday. The most significant growth was 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.

Division Yankee (north flank): 117 wildland firefighters, 4 heavy equipment, aerial support



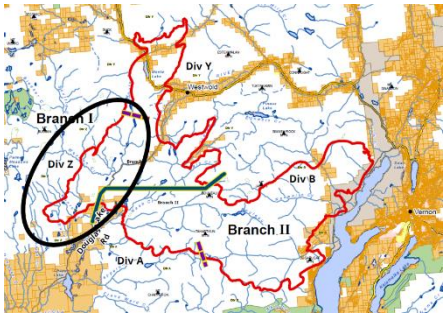
Firefighters are holding the line where a successful planned ignition was recently completed. Very little wildfire growth has been observed on the northwest flank in recent days. Firefighters continue to mop-up where the ignition operation took place. Mop-up activity is also taking place on Adelphi FRS to Woods Lake, Grange FSR west to Douglas Road, from Biancotto Lake north to Paxton Lake, and from Onion guard north to Hwy 97. Heavy equipment operators continue with guard construction south of the powerlines.

Division Alpha (southwest flank): aerial resources



Increased fire activity on Aug. 15 caused growth along the whole southern perimeter of the wildfire. Wildfire Officers continue with monitor flights to assess wildfire activity and determine suppression response.

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



The BC Wildfire Service is assessing the area after growth experienced Aug. 15. Wildfire Officers continue with monitor flights to assess wildfire activity and determine suppression response.

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.