BC Wildfire Service

August 17, 2021—1300

WILDFIRE UPDATE

White Rock Lake (K61884)	FIRE SIZE 78,190 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. The cause of this wildfire is under investigation.

CONDITIONS:

Smoke has cleared out of Vernon for the time being leaving low-level clouds visible.

TODAY: Cloudy with a chance of showers this morning. MAX TEMP: 16C MIN RH: 60% WINDS: NW 20-30 km/hr.

WEATHER OUTLOOK: The upper ridge will be flattened by a low tracking across northern Canada Wednesday and Thursday and the flow will become northwest behind it. Conditions will remain dry with temperatures reaching the low to mid-twenties each day. Winds will be light and variable Wednesday and light northwest Thursday.

STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

The structure protection branch consists 143 structure protection personnel from various fire departments. Structure protection specialists are working 24-hour a day around communities most affected by current wildfire activity. Two Type 1 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailers, seven Type 2 SPU trailer, 20 engines, five mass-water delivery systems, and 16 water tenders are also assigned to the structure protection branch.

Every property that is, or has been, at risk from the wildfire has been assessed and triaged. Structure protection is also working in the interface and intermix areas, including rural properties throughout the fire perimeter, where possible to conduct structure protection.

RESOURCES:

Wildland Firefighters – 284

Heavy Equipment – 60

Danger tree assessors/fallers – 16

Helicopters – 16 assigned

Incident Management Team

STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

Personnel – 143

Structure Protection Unit Trailers— nine (two Type 1 and seven Type 2)

Equipment – 20 engines, 16 water tenders, and five mass-water delivery systems. Structure protection personnel are remaining on site through the night to provide 24/7 structure protection continuity.

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.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

White Rock Lake Information Section

Telephone: 778-694-0787 | **Email:** BCWS.WhiteRockInfo@gov.bc.ca

www.bcwildfire.ca BC Forest Fire Info @BCGovFireInfo **www.firesmartbc.ca**

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OBJECTIVES:

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.

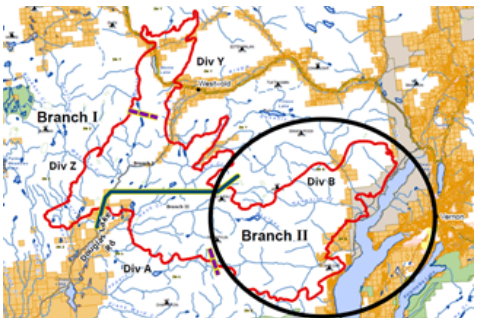
Wildfire Officers have now re-established work objectives in active suppression response areas after experiencing fire activity on all areas of the wildfire on Aug 15. Crews, equipment, and aerial resources will continue to defend remaining guard and containment lines that are still operational.

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 Alpha (south-west 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 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.

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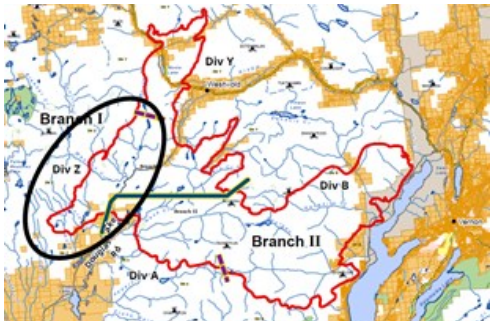
OBJECTIVES:

Division Yankee (north flank): 117 wildland firefighters, 8 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 Zulu (west flank): aerial resources



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.

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EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

The following government authorities have implemented Evacuation Alerts and Orders. Please contact the applicable local authority for more details on the Evacuation Alerts and Orders.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District has Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Alerts in place.
Thompson-Nicola Regional District / 250-377-7188

The Columbia-Shuswap Regional District has Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Alerts in place.
Columbia-Shuswap Regional District / 250-833-3350

The Regional District of North Okanagan has an Evacuation Order in place.
Regional District of North Okanagan /250-550-3700

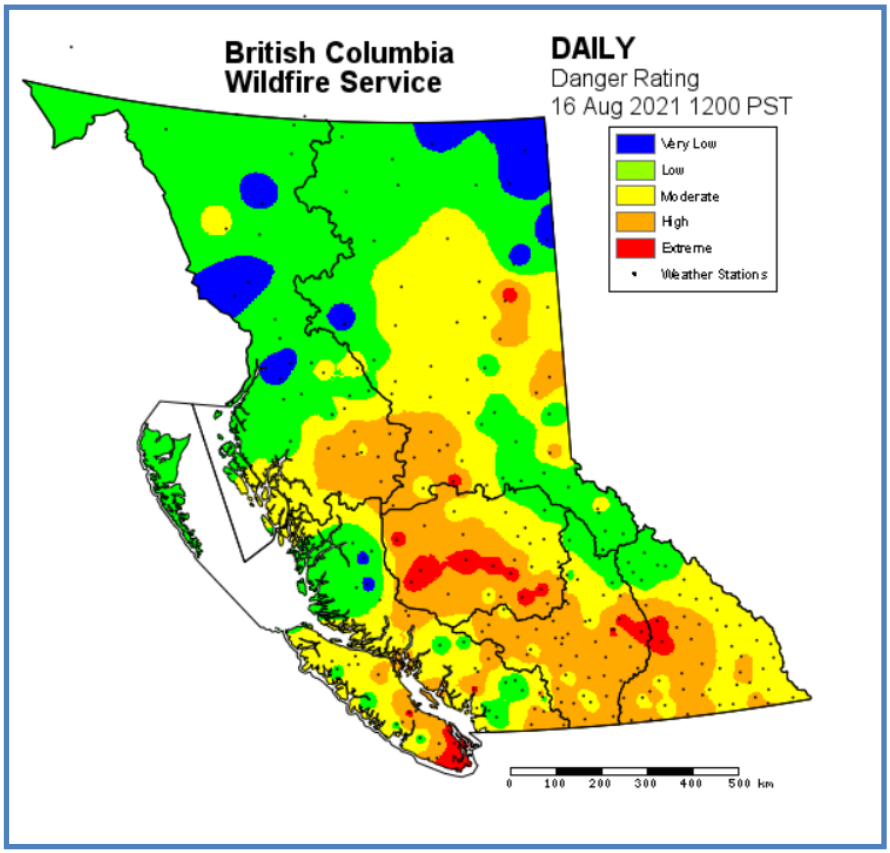
The Okanagan Indian Band has an Evacuation Alert in place for IR #1.
Okanagan Indian Band/ OKIBEOCInformationOfficer@okanagan.org/ 250-241-5809

The Regional District of Central Okanagan has Evacuation Orders and Alerts in place.
Regional District of Central Okanagan / 250-469-8490 (local) or 1-877-569-8490 (toll-free)

The Splatsín First Nation has an Evacuation Alert in place.
Splatsín First Nation

The City of Vernon has an Evacuation Alert in place.
The City of Vernon

The Township of Spallumcheen has an Evacuation Alert in place.
Township of Spallumcheen



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