



INCIDENT UPDATE

Old Tom Creek (K52670)

This information is current as of:	August 20, 2018
Incident Commander (IC)	Glen Burgess
Contact information	Information Officer: Stephen Kada 250-819-2564 PlacerComIN@gov.bc.ca
Fire camp	Merritt ICP
Incident overview	This fire was discovered on August 15, since then ground crews, helicopters, air tankers and heavy equipment have been assigned to this fire. This wildfire is classified as out of control.
Weather forecast	Extensive smoke. High temperature 18C and low RH near 30%. Winds NE 15 - 25 km/h gusting 40 km/h by afternoon. No inversion expected in the morning if strong winds eventuated over Sunday night / Monday morning. There is some uncertainty as to how the smoke may challenge temperature, wind speeds and RH. Overnight low near 11C and RH recovery to near 65%. Winds NE 10 – 20 km/h. On Tuesday an upper ridge leans further into BC, and temperatures will reach into the high teens to low twenties. Winds will be light to moderate northerlies. On Wednesday temperatures will continue to reach the high teens / low twenties, with south westerly winds predicted. An upper trough will approach the region on Thursday, bring moderate and gusty south westerlies, and temperatures may drop 2-3 degrees.
Fire behavior prediction	Likely poor visibility due to smoke in the morning and throughout the day. The potential for aggressive fire behavior exists and may be difficult to see until nearby. Crews should be aware of conditions if smoke starts to lift. If smoke lifts, the forecast conditions are more likely to be realized, and fire behavior may intensify. Gusty conditions may eventuate on the fire ground today, which could cause some flare ups and spotting. If breakouts occur, there is potential for fast rates of spread in all fuel types today, with continuous crowning predicted to occur in areas of slash and understory that have active flame.
Challenges	Due to poor visibility aviation was used for a short period of time before being grounded for safety. High northwesterly winds and small excursion on the eastern flank.
Yesterday's achievements	Despite high winds in the late afternoon there was only one small excursion on the eastern side that was quickly dealt with. Crews continued extinguishing fire as it burned to the control line. Consolidation of containment lines and identification of contingency lines.
Today's objectives	Heavy equipment will be redeployed to assist with fire suppression. Use of Type 2 crews to commence work in the arduous terrain on the western flank of the fire with aviation support as required.
Other	Crews will be operating out of the Keremeos camp to reduce drive time to the incident. Aircraft will be using Oliver or Princeton airport for refuelling.

Definitions: Stages of Control

Out of Control:	Describes a wildfire that is not responding (or only responding on a limited basis) to suppression action, such that the perimeter spread is not being contained.
Being Held:	Indicates that (with the resources currently committed to the fire) that sufficient suppression action has been taken that the fire is not likely to spread beyond existing or predetermined boundaries under the prevailing and forecasted conditions.
Under Control:	Indicates that the fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.
Out:	Indicates that the fire has been extinguished.

View an interactive map by clicking [here](#) or visiting www.bcwildfire.ca