BC Wildfire Service

INCIDENT UPDATE

Snowy Mountain (K51238)

This information is current as of:	August 20, 2018
Incident Commander (IC)	Glen Burgess
Contact information	Information Officer: Stephen Kada (all inquiries) 250-819-8564 Email: PlacerComIN@gov.bc.ca
Fire camp	Keremeos
Incident overview	This wildfire is estimated at 13, 359 hectares in size and is classified as Being Held. The fire remains to the west of Chopaka Road and continues to burn within the managed area set by the fire analysis. The south flank remains approximately 3 km from the U.S. border. The BC Wildfire Service Incident Management Team assigned to the Snowy Mountain Fire is working collaboratively with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.
Weather forecast	Extensive smoke. High temperature 18C and low RH near 30%. Winds NE-15-25 km/h gusting to 40 km/h by afternoon. Conditions may differ in the valley bottoms, particularly with wind speeds during the morning. No inversion expected in the morning if strong winds eventuated over Sunday night / Monday morning. There is some uncertainty as to how the smoke my challenge temperature, wind speeds and RH. Overnight low near 8C and RH recovery to near 65%. Winds North 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 fast rates of spread in all fuel types and spotting.
Challenges	Due to poor visibility, aviation resources were grounded for safety. Fire activity increased on the ridgelines and in the Barrington Creek drainage.
Yesterday's achievements	Local rancher who was permitted back into the fire area to cut trail over the last 2 days located all 44 of his cattle safe and sound. Crews re-located the sprinkler system in the Barrington Drainage and extinguished any fire that burned down to the line.
Today's objectives	Crew to go back into Barrington Drainage and re-assess sprinkler system, monitor conditions and extinguish the fire as it slowly progresses down the hill towards the control line

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.

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