BC Wildfire Service

August 20, 2021-11:00

WILDFIRE UPDATE

White Rock Lake (K61884)	FIRE SIZE 81,139 hectares (estimate)	FIRE STATUS Out of Control

This fire was first discovered on Sunday, July 13, 2021 and is approximately 10 kilometres west of Vernon. The cause of this wildfire is lightning.

CONDITIONS:

TODAY: Partly sunny with increasing cloudiness , slight chance of afternoon showers or thunderstorms. MAX TEMP: 18C MIN RH: 50% WINDS: 10-20 gusting 30km/hr.

WEATHER OUTLOOK: Friday will see a weak upper low in northwest flow slide down the Vancouver Island mountains by the afternoon. This will cool temperatures near two degrees and some isolated showers may occur. Winds will be light and variable across the region. A deeper and more organized low will approach the region from the northwest Saturday. Temperatures will remain in the mid to upper twenties Saturday and isolated to scattered showers are expected.

STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

The structure protection branch consists of 88 structure protection personnel from various fire departments. Two Type 1 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailers, seven Type 2 SPU trailer, eight engines, five mass-water delivery systems, and ten water tenders are also assigned to the structure protection branch. Structure protection personnel are continuing to action hot spots and mop-up around interface areas where the wildfire has affected communities. Structure protection apparatuses will be demobilized and re-allocated in areas where the wildfire remains a threat. Structure protection specialists are assessing and triaging structures north and south of the fire perimeter along Westside Road should the fire grow in those directions.

A contract firefighters returns back to the Vernon fire camp after a day working on the White Rock Lake wild-fire.

Photo taken by Rick Collins

RESOURCES:

Wildland Firefighters – 278

Heavy Equipment – 59

Danger tree assessors/fallers – 16

Helicopters – 13 assigned

Incident Management Team

STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

Personnel – 88

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

Equipment – eight fire engines, ten water tenders, and five mass-water delivery systems.

AREA RESTRICTION ORDER:

The BC Wildfire Service has expanded 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: 778-694-8325 **| Email:** BCWS.WhiteRockInfo@gov.bc.ca

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

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UPDATE:

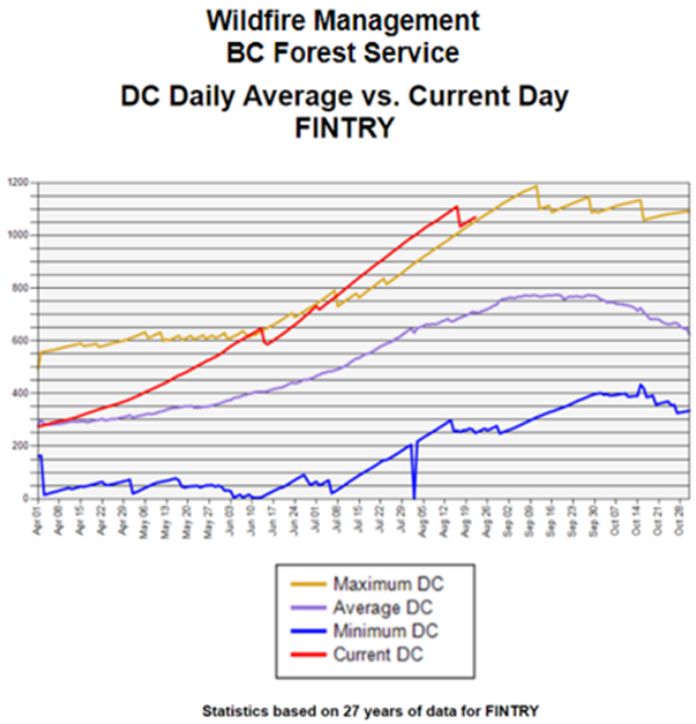
The White Rock Lake wildfire remains active and fuels continue to quickly dry out due to severe drought conditions in the Okanagan. The recent precipitation was a welcome reprieve, but fuels available to burn continue to be highly susceptible to ignitions.

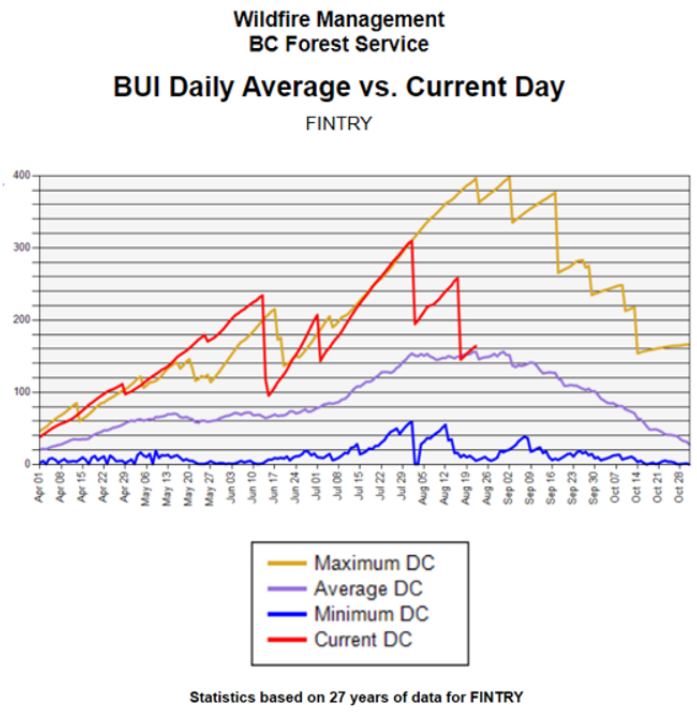
The Drought Code (DC) for the Fintry area is currently the highest it's been since recording statistics, 27 years ago. The DC is a numeric rating of the average moisture content of deep, compact organic layers. This code is a useful indicator of the effects of seasonal drought on forest fuels and the amount of smouldering that may occur in deep duff layers and within large logs.

The Buildup Index (BUI) is a numeric rating of the total amount of fuel available for combustion on the landscape, and takes into account the moisture content of medium-sized to large-sized woody material, as well as the effects of seasonal drought on forest fuels.

As shown in the diagrams below, the DC and BUI are much higher this year compared to the rolling average over the past 27 years.

The BC Wildfire Service would like to remind the public that areas of the wildfire that have already burned are still active and will continue to show signs of smoke. The current Evacuation Alerts and Orders are in place to ensure public safety.





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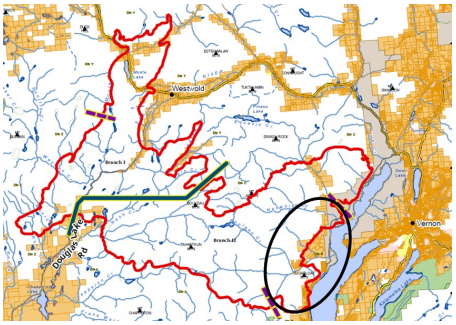
OBJECTIVES:

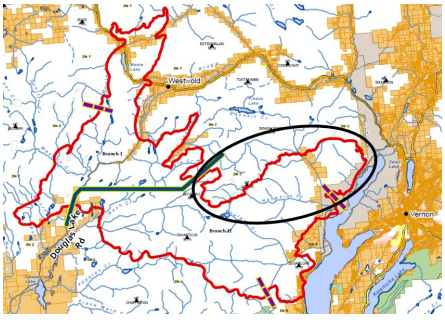
Warm and dry weather is forecast for the Vernon area, with the potential of rain and thunderstorms developing in the coming days. The rain forecasted is expected to diminish fire activity in the short term. The White Rock Lake Wildfire is still very active in many areas of the wildfire. Air support is active supporting ground crews today, who are working on guard construction on the north, east, and northeast flanks. The most active area of the fire is along Westside Road, north of Fintry Park where current drought conditions are already causing fuels to dry out again. Air support will continue to support ground crews with suppression activities throughout the day today.

Division Bravo (east flank): 114 wildland firefighters, heavy equipment, aerial support



Crews and equipment will continue to defend pre-established containment lines above communities and protect structures. Structure protection personnel are continuing to action hot spots and mop-up around impacted interface areas. Heavy equipment continues to work on re-establishing containment lines from the 2009 Terrace Mountain fire to tie into the pre-established guard at Stuart Lake. Aerial resources will continue to cool this area of the fire with water buckets to support heavy machine and crews as they work to establish these containment lines. Structure protection in this area is being assessed and applied where necessary and maintained elsewhere. Heavy equipment is also working along the Bouleau FSR towards Bouleau Lake to open up the tree canopy along the road. around impacted interface areas.

Division Charlie (northeast flank, south of Glenemma): 23 wildland firefighters, heavy equipment, aerial support



Yesterday, crews used routine hand ignitions to secure the edge of the containment line along the northeast perimeter, south of Irish Creek Road/west of Westside Road. Heavy equipment continues construct guard from Irish Creek, working westward, and from Cedar Creek working eastward. Heavy equipment and crews are also constructing guard between Irish Creek and McGregor Creek to hold the line closer to the fire perimeter.

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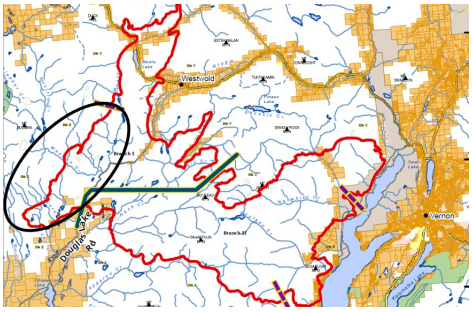
OBJECTIVES:

Division Yankee (north flank): 141 wildland firefighters, heavy equipment, aerial support

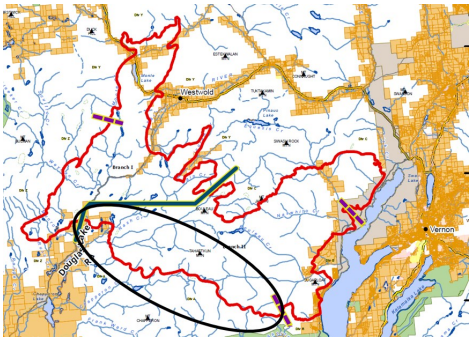
No growth has been observed along all fire perimeters north of Highway 97. Firefighters are continuing with direct attack in this area, applying water directly to the fire's edge and mopping up throughout affected communities. The focus for today is to continue to mop-up from Adelphi FRS to Woods Lake, Grange FSR west to Douglas Road, from Biancotto Lake north to Paxton Lake, and north to Highway 97. Heavy equipment operators continue with guard construction south of the powerlines, along McGregor FSR.

Division Zulu (west flank): aerial resources



Wildfire Officers continue to monitor this flank of the fire. No growth has been observed along this flank over the past week.

Division Alpha (south flank): aerial resources



Aerial resources continue to monitor this flank of the fire. A 50-kilometre contingency guard has been established south of the fire perimeter from Chapperon Lake moving eastward towards Fintry Park. Heavy equipment is also working on a guard along the southeast corner, north of Fintry Park, closer to fire's edge.

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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

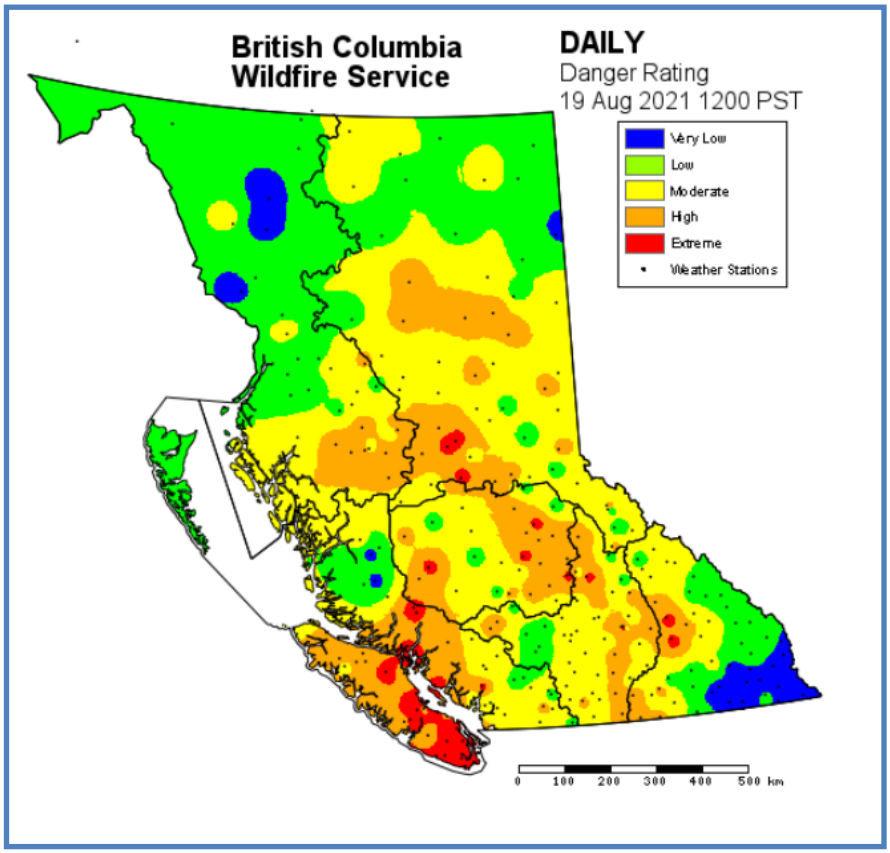
The Okanagan Indian Band has Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Alerts in place for IR #1.
Okanagan Indian Band/ OKIBEOCInformationOfficer@okanagan.org/ 250-241-5809

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.