BC Wildfire Service

August 21, 2021-9:00

WILDFIRE UPDATE

White Rock Lake	FIRE SIZE	FIRE STATUS
K61884	80, 705 hectares (estimate)	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: Mainly cloudy with isolated to scattered afternoon showers or thunderstorms. MAX TEMP: 21° MIN RH: 40%. WINDS: Light becoming south 10-15 km/h in the afternoon.

WEATHER OUTLOOK: On Sunday, a second significant deep upper low drops south over the interior, landing near Williams Lake in the afternoon. Westerly upper winds will strengthen with the approaching low and surface winds will likely increase from the south as the pressure falls over the central interior. Monday will be stormy with rain and thundershowers and gusty winds as the remnants of the low pass overhead.

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.

RESOURCES:

Wildland Firefighters – 244

Heavy Equipment – 57

Danger tree assessors/fallers – 10

Helicopters – 12assigned

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**

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UPDATE:

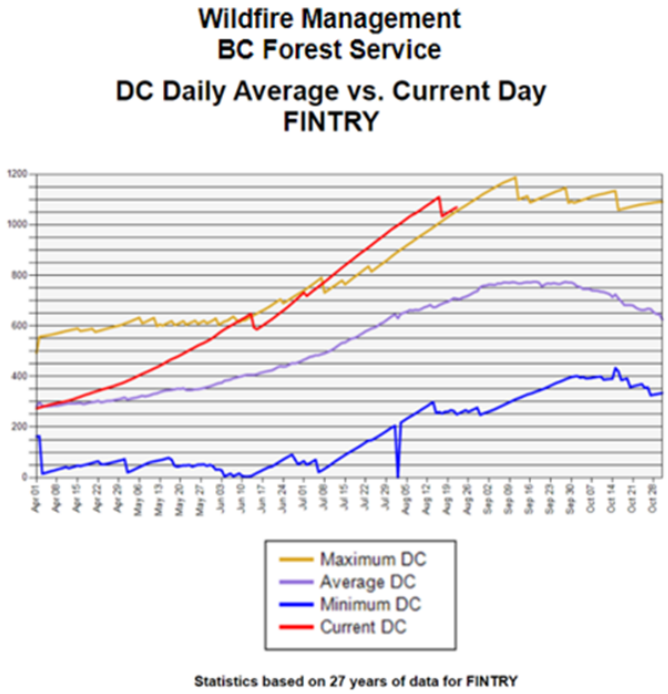
Certain areas of the White Rock Lake wildfire received precipitation today, however, due to the size of the wildfire, not all areas will receive rain. Where it is falling, it will diminish fire activity in those areas. Elsewhere , fuels available to burn continue to be highly susceptible to ignitions.

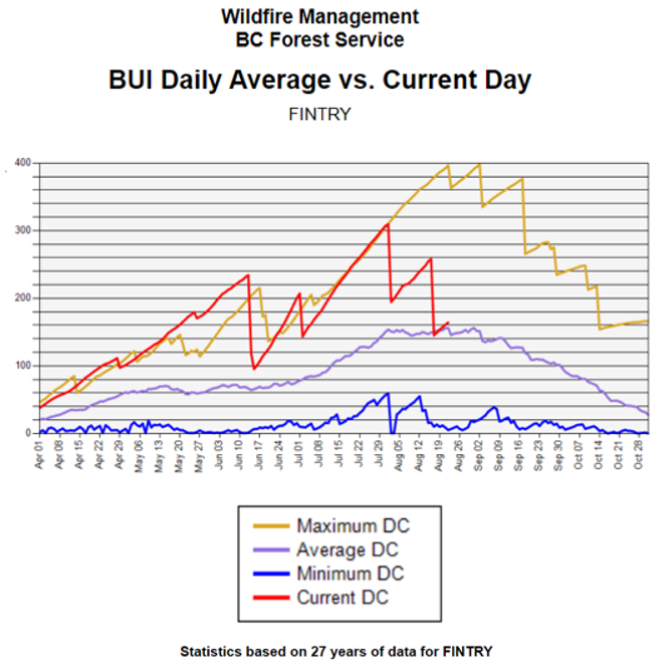
The Drought Code (DC) for the Fintry area is currently the highest it's been since recording statistics, 27 years ago. The DC is a numeric rating of the average moisture content of deep, compact organic layers. This code is a useful indicator of the effects of seasonal drought on forest fuels and the 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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BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

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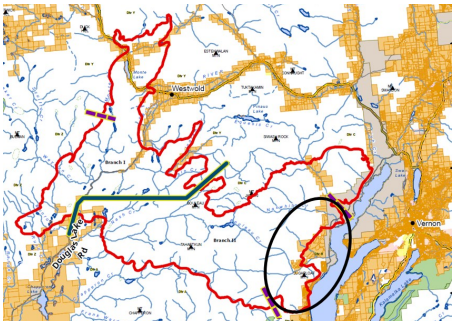
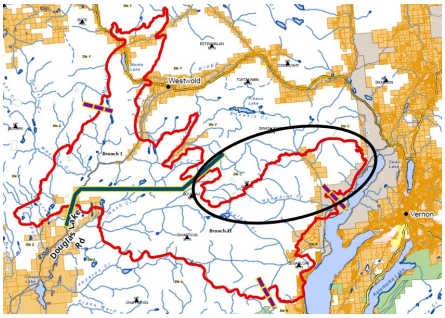
OBJECTIVES:

Division Bravo (east flank): 110 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. The Drought Code in this area of the fire is resulting in incredibly deep burning forest fuels making it difficult to bring this area to full extinguishment. Heavy equipment continues to work on re-establishing containment lines from the old 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. Heavy equipment is also working along the Bouleau FSR towards Bouleau Lake to open up the tree canopy along the road.

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



Yesterday, crews continued with routine hand ignitions to secure the edge of the containment line along the southeast perimeter, south of Irish Creek Road/west of Westside Road. As the fire progressed north along this flank, crews used this tactic to secure the edge of the control line by bringing the fire down to an area where they could effectively apply water directly to the fire's edge. 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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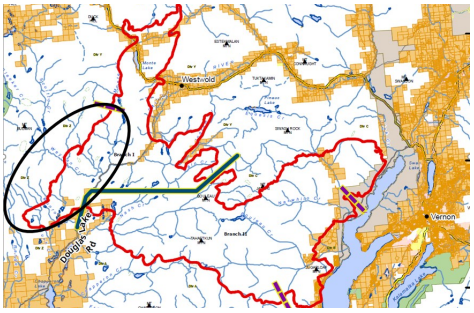
OBJECTIVES:

Division Yankee (north flank): 100 wildland firefighters, heavy equipment, aerial support

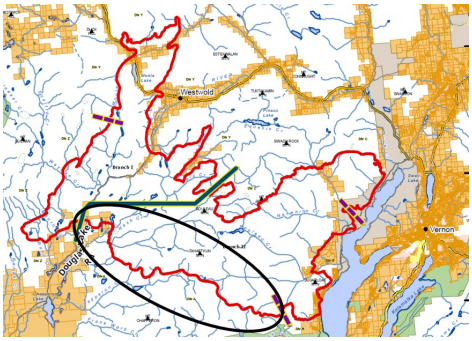
Patrol and mop-up from Adelphi FRS to Woods Lake, Grange FSR west to Douglas Road, from Biancotto Lake north to Paxton Lake, and north to Highway 97 continues. Today, the focus will be to complete mop-up operations around impacted neighbourhoods along the northern finger of the fire. There continues to be no growth along all fire perimeters of the northern finger north of Highway 97 and down towards Woods Lake. Firefighters are continuing with direct attack in this area, applying water directly to the fire's edge and mopping up along containment lines. Heavy equipment operators continue with guard construction south of the powerlines, along McGregor FSR.

Division Zulu (west flank): 8 firefighters. Heavy equipment, aerial resources



This flank of the fire continues to be observed by aerial resources. No growth has been observed along this flank over the past week. Today, crews will begin mop up along the Ingram FSR with support from heavy equipment to ensure the control line is well secured.

Division Alpha (south flank): aerial resources



Aerial resources continue to monitor this flank of the fire. A 52-kilometre contingency guard has been established south of the fire perimeter from Chapperon Lake moving eastward towards Fintry Park.

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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

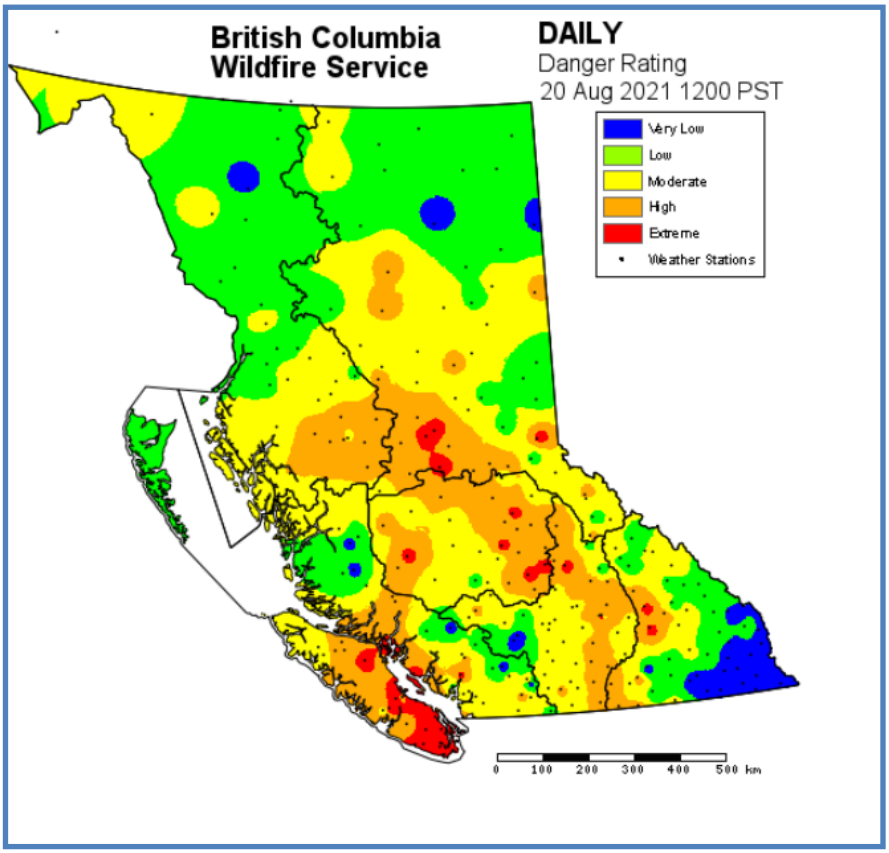
The Okanagan Indian Band has Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Alerts in place for IR #1.
Okanagan Indian Band/ OKIBEOCInformationOfficer@okanagan.org/ 250-241-5809

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.