BC Wildfire Service

August 2, 2021

WILDFIRE UPDATE

White Rock Lake (K61884)	FIRE SIZE 32,312 hectares (estimate)	FIRE STATUS Out of Control

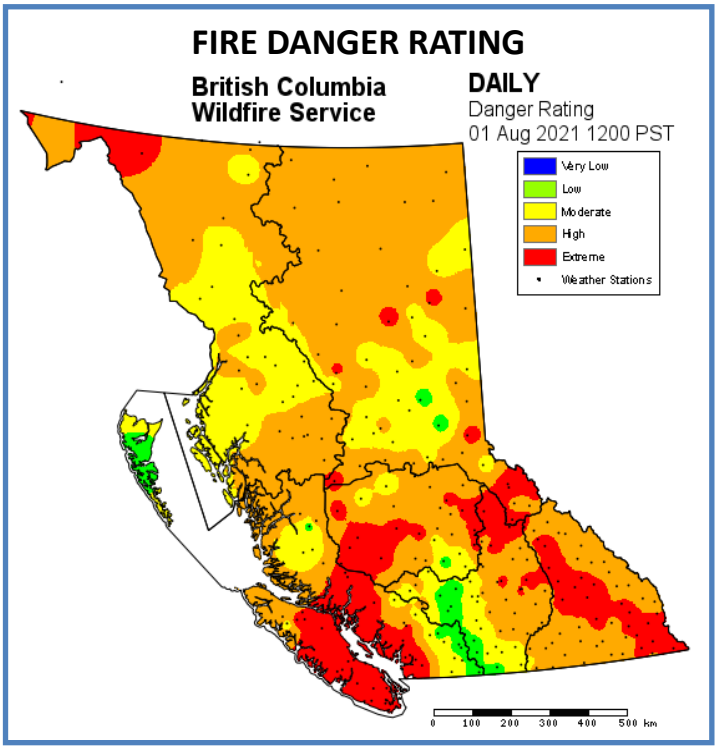
This fire was first discovered on Sunday, July 13, 2021 and is approximately 34 kilometres northwest of Vernon.

CONDITIONS:

Conditions on site continue to be extremely smoky, which is hampering the ability for aircraft to fly and is challenging suppression efforts.

Variable amounts of precipitation were seen on the perimeter of the fire yesterday, August 1. The northern areas on the fire in the Westwold area received up to 10 millimetres of rain, which was enough to provide a reprieve from fire behaviour over the next 24-48 hours. The southern part of the fire received minimal precipitation. Temperatures are expected to remain in the mid-20s. Winds will be 10-20 km/hr with gusts up to 30 km/hr in the afternoon. In the south, fire behavior continues to be quite active.

Crews are continuing to work towards safe, achievable operational objectives under extremely adverse conditions. Public and first responder safety remains BC Wildfire Service's top priority. To protect the safety of the public and first responders, the BC wildfire Service will continue to evaluate the need for further Evacuation Order and Evacuation Alert



RESOURCES:

Firefighters – 118

Support Staff – 12

Heavy Equipment – 42

Danger tree assessors/fallers – six

Helicopters – 11 assigned

Incident Management Team

STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

Personnel – 45 from ten fire departments

Structure Protection Unit Trailers— three (one Type 1 and two Type 2)

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.

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

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OBJECTIVES:

On July 31, aggressive overnight fire growth was observed along the south flank towards Seaton Lake where much of the fire perimeter crossed over the Salmon River FSR. The increased estimated size of the fire today is a result of that growth. Heavy smoke is still hampering the ability of aircraft to fly and has impacted aerial firefighting efforts.

On the northwest and southwest flanks, crews will continue patrolling the completed machine guard and work on extinguishing any spots that may have crossed the guard. Crews are supporting these guards with hose lay and a water delivery system. Heavy equipment is also working to protect this guard, as well as ensure access is maintained to Monte-Pratt Road.

Northeast of the fire perimeter, crews and heavy equipment are continuing to work along a stretch of machine guard to contain fire that comes down the ridge line and constructing a fuel free handguard to tie together pre-established control lines along this flank.

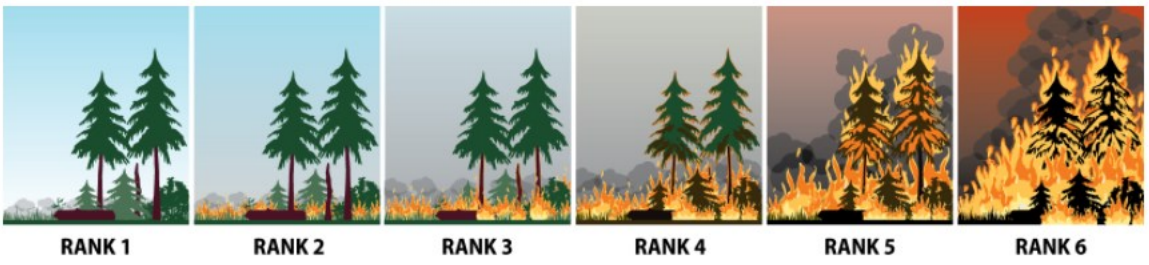
A ground-based retardant unit continues to reinforce control lines east of the fire perimeter. This unit is a large truck that can apply the same type of retardant used by airtankers to help slow the spread of the fire, allowing equipment and crews time and space to safely work along pre-constructed control lines. To ensure personnel safety, crews are being supported by danger tree assessors/fallers.

Crews along the southern flank of the fire will be working along Beautiful Road to mop up the excursion south of the Salmon River Forest Service Road, east of Salmon Lake.

Eleven helicopters are assigned to the White Rock Lake wildfire and will be delivering water to problematic areas of the fire to support ground suppression efforts. The helicopter fleet includes a Sikorsky 64 SkyCrane helicopter, which has a 2,650-gallon tank that is fillable in less than one-minute. Additional air support is available and will be utilized as required, should conditions allow.

For more information on Fire Ranks, please visit www.bcwildfire.ca

Rank 3 and 4 fire behaviour has been observed on the south flank, despite higher Relative Humidity values and lower temperatures seen over the last 24 hours.



ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

North Okanagan Complex Information Section

Telephone: 778-694-8325 | **Email:** BCWS.NorthOkanaganComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca

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

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STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

The structure protection branch consists of 45 structure protection personnel from ten different fire departments, one Type 1 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailer and two Type 2 SPU trailers. Structure protection personnel are remaining on site through the night to provide 24/7 structure protection continuity.

Structural protection personnel continue to assess critical infrastructure and properties, from Monte Lake towards the Falkland Corridor via Highway 97. Structure protection personnel are preparing to deploy structure protection apparatuses in the community of Monte Lake and Pinaus Lake as required. Today, personnel will being to working along west side road to evaluate resource and equipment requirements should it be required.

Applying tactical FireSmart principles around impacted communities continues. By removing available fuels from within home ignition zones and around facilities, fires are less likely to impact interface areas.

Structure protection units can be effective in reducing wildfire threats to some types of building, however, defending structures from a wildland fire will not be possible in every situation. An assessment of several factors (including risks to firefighters, fire behaviour, and the availability of resources) will dictate the strategies that will be used.

Structure protection units do not have their own water supply. Crews seek out lakes, ponds, creeks, swimming pools, etc. to provide the water necessary to operate the sprinklers. Mass water delivery systems will be set-up as required should pre-existing water sources not be available.

EVACUATION ALERTS & ORDERS:

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) has implemented an Evacuation Order for 85 properties and has issued an Evacuation Alert for an additional 576 properties. For more information, please contact: Thompson-Nicola Regional District / 250-377-7188.

The Columbia-Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) has Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Alert in place. The Evacuation Alert includes the south-west corner of CSRD Electoral Area D, including the communities of Falkland and Sweetsbridge, and all properties along Chase-Falkland Road to Joyce Lake. For more information, please contact: Columbia-Shuswap Regional District / 250-833-3350.

On August 1, 2021, the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) partially upgraded the Evacuation Alert area to an Evacuation Order for 49 properties in the Electoral Area B, above Westside Road, north of the Central Okanagan Regional District boundary, west of the Okanagan Indian Band IR #1 and south and west of Six Mile Creek Road. The Evacuation Order for 20 properties and Evacuation Alert for 23 properties remains in effect. Please contact Regional District of North Okanagan /250-550-3700 for more information.

On August 1, 2021, the Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) partially upgraded the Evacuation Alert to an Evacuation Order for areas below the Whiteman Creek drainage, south of the Mud Hole, including Parker Cove and Whiteman subdivision. The existing Evacuation Alert for the remainder of OKIB IR#1 Reserve up to Newport Beach including but not limited to Newport Beach, Old Mill site, Komasket Part Area, 6 Mile, Parkers Cove, and Whiteman's Creek is still in place. Please contact Okanagan Indian Band, OKIBEOCInformationOfficer@okanagan.org / 250-241-5809 for more information.

On August 1, the Evacuation Alert issued on Friday, July 31 for properties in the Regional District of the Central Okanagan (RDCO) was raised to an Evacuation Order. In addition, a State of Local Emergency has been issued for the RDCO along North Westside Road resulting in an Evacuation Order for all properties in Westshore Estates. Please contact the Regional District of Central Okanagan / 250-469-8490 (local) or 1-877-569-8490 (toll-free) for more information.

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North Okanagan Complex Information Section

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