



FIRE NAME

Christie Mountain
(K51287)

FIRE SIZE:

2035 hectares
(tracked)

FIRE STATUS:

Out of Control

CONDITIONS:

Fire is still minimal and fire is rank 1 and 2. There have been no major flare-ups.

OBJECTIVES:

Crews will continue a 100 foot wetline around structures on Charity Mountain Lane and Bighorn Way, and push hose lay in the west flank working to the north.

They will continue to reinforce control lines at the Skaha Bluff Provincial Park and look for small burn out opportunities when possible.

Crews will also continue pushing hose lay eastward on the south flank finding areas to tie into and work with structure protection around the cul-du-sacs.

Rappel crews have arrived and will assist in building helipads in inaccessible areas.

EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

- Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen: <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/>
- City of Penticton: <https://www.penticton.ca/>
- Area Restriction Order: <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=3217>



Crew transport—Aug. 22, 2020 | Photo Credit :Josh Skinner

RESOURCES

Firefighters: 202 including 32 assigned to overnight Operations

Helicopters: 16

Water tenders: 6

Heavy Equipment: 8

Structure protection specialists: approx. 32 —representing multiple fire departments

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Christie Mountain Wildfire Information Section: | Hours: 0800-2000

Telephone: 778 694-3934 | Email: bcws.christieinfo@gov.bc.ca



www.bcwildfire.ca



BC Forest Fire Info



@BCGovFireInfo



www.firesmartbc.ca



WEATHER FORECAST:

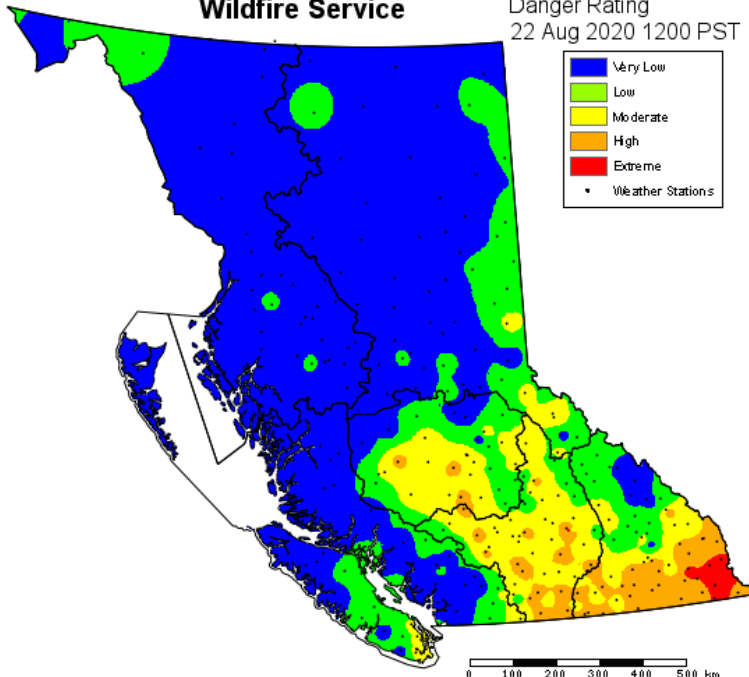
SYNOPSIS: An upper trough across northern BC today will give the forecast area a west-southwest flow of drier more stable air. A slack pressure gradient giving light inflow winds will allow topographically driven light north winds this afternoon, becoming light and variable overnight. The trough will extend westward and dig into the Pacific tomorrow, backing the flow to the southwest by afternoon. A slack pressure gradient will give light and variable winds tomorrow and temperatures will peak slightly warmer than today.

TODAY/TONIGHT/TOMORROW: Today: Mainly sunny. Maximum temperature 26 and minimum RH 26%. Winds N-NW 10-20 km/h. Tonight: Occasional cloudy periods by morning. Winds becoming light and variable by evening. Minimum temperature 13 C and maximum RH 60%. Tomorrow: Mainly sunny. Maximum temperature 28. C and minimum RH 20%. Winds light north.

OUTLOOK: The upper trough will rotate from the Pacific through the region on Monday and the embedded upper low will be in northern BC. This will cool temperatures to near 26 C. Winds will be light north. The low moves off on Tuesday, but conditions will remain similar to Monday. Wednesday will see a weak trough over southern BC and with dry conditions temperatures will cool one or two degrees. Winds will be light north.

British Columbia Wildfire Service

DAILY
Danger Rating
22 Aug 2020 1200 PST



FIRE SIZE

Size of Fire: A track of the fire was done on Aug 22, which increased the area slightly to 2035 hectares.

Map of Current Fire Perimeter: http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/!Project/WildfireNews/8222020~84927_20%20K51287%20MAP%20PUBLIC%208.5x11P%2020200821%20v2.pdf

Aerial Fire Retardant Slows Fires so Ground Crews Can Put Them Out

During a wildfire emergency, the BC Wildfire Service has many tools at its disposal. One of the tools that's used to slow a fire's spread is fire retardant.



An airtanker laying down a band of red fire retardant is an awe-inspiring sight, and one that many members of the public believe will stop the wildfire in its tracks. However, that's not the case.

Retardant (as its name implies) slows or "retards" the forward spread of a wildfire or reduces its intensity, but it does not stop the fire. Retardant is used to create an artificial firebreak where the terrain is rugged or remote. Slowing the fire or reducing its intensity gives ground crews time to safely position themselves, begin cutting a firebreak, lay water hoses, and start fully extinguishing the fire. Retardant can also be used to reinforce fire control lines or natural fuel breaks on larger and more aggressive wildfires that crews can't safely work on directly. These reinforced control lines can then be used to burn off (or "backfire") unburned fuels ahead of the fire.

Fire retardant is typically dropped ahead of the moving fire or along its edge. The two main methods used by air attack officers are the "box" and "blanket" techniques. Small fires (under one hectare) can be blanketed with retardant to help initial attack crews gain control of the fire.

The box technique is used to slow or contain larger fires, buying time for a more coordinated response with crews and heavy equipment. Retardant is designed to be effective in both wet and dry conditions and is expected to hold an average ground fire for about four hours. However, if the fire is not immediately burning into this artificial firebreak, the retardant can maintain its integrity and effectiveness for two or more days.

Water-soluble fire retardants are commonly used in fire suppression because of their long-lasting effect on fires. They contain ammonium salts which affect the burning process of forest fuels. Retardants prematurely release the gaseous fuels within logs and debris. This reaction releases a water and carbon dioxide combination that cools and suffocates the fire. Retardant has a much longer-lasting effect than water in fire suppression because it does not evaporate.

Retardant is a blend of liquid-concentrate, fertilizer-based solution that is blended and diluted with water generally obtained from municipal water supplies. Phos-chek® is the retardant used by the BC Wildfire Service and it contains more than 85% ammonium phosphate solution and a combination of clay, iron oxide and performance additives. The mixed solution used for fighting wildfires contains about 15% concentrate and 85% water.

Fire retardant gets its red colour from the iron oxide, which enhances the fire retardant's visibility for air attack officers and pilots so they can see exactly where it's been dropped. Once an initial drop has been made, additional drops can extend the retardant line or reinforce it.

When retardant is dropped in populated areas, sometimes the public asks whether the product will affect local watersheds, but retardant entering a water supply is not considered to be harmful. The high fertilizer content can cause some phosphate-loving organisms to bloom when dropped into stagnant water sources but is generally not toxic. Air Attack Officers make every effort to avoid dropping retardant into watersheds and large waterways and have a process in place to report any spills.

The retardant components present in the solution are consumed by plant life and provide nutrients to the plants. The gum thickener and other inorganic compounds are biodegradable and will break down via other means in the environment.

If retardant lands on houses, cars, etc., the manufacturer recommends that it be removed as soon as possible. If the retardant is still wet, it can easily be washed off with water. If the retardant is dry, removal may require some scrubbing with water or power washing and a mild detergent.

Retardant is a valuable tool that is used when necessary to support the hard work of ground crews. It is used to help manage a wildfire's spread and intensity, but it does not put the fire out by itself.

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- View an interactive map by clicking [here](#).
- **Road Closures:** DriveBC | dial 1-800-550-4997 | <https://www.drivebc.ca/>
- **Drifting Smoke:** www.bcairquality.ca/bluesky/west/index.html
- **Smoke Health Concerns:** HealthLink BC | dial 8-1-1 | www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp
- For info on **Community Support Services**, click [here](#) or visit <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>
- For **damage** to private property and Reserve Lands, please email BCWSClaims@gov.bc.ca.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES			
BC Wildfire Service	Emergency Management BC	Local municipalities and regional districts	First Nations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BCWS's jurisdiction covers all BC Parks, Crown and private lands, but does not include the boundaries of local governments that have forest fire prevention bylaws and are serviced by a fire department. - BCWS speaks directly about wildfires (i.e. fire status, operations, etc.) and is responsible for disseminating wildfire updates to local governments, stakeholders, First Nations and the public. - BCWS does <u>not</u> announce Strategic Evacuation Orders or Alerts. - BCWS <u>does</u> announce Tactical Evacuations. - In the event of an imminent threat to public safety, BCWS can authorize an immediate Tactical Evacuation of the affected area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EMBC coordinates communication across all agencies and stakeholders to support communities. - EMBC provides advice to evacuees and support to communities regarding Emergency Operations Centres and Emergency Support Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts speak directly about Strategic Evacuation Orders and Alerts in their respective jurisdictions. - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts <u>do not</u> speak about the status of a wildfire unless the fire occurs within their jurisdiction. For example, if a wildfire <u>starts</u> within the boundaries of a local government, BCWS will often assist the local fire department with suppression efforts. If the fire spreads into Crown land to become a wildfire, BCWS will often assume control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On IR lands, Evacuation Orders and Alerts are implemented by a Band Council Resolution or other. - A designated person(s) from the respective First Nations community will speak to Evacuation Orders and Alerts on IR lands.

ACCESSING INFORMATION		
BC Wildfire Service Online Communications	EmergencyInfoBC EMBC Online Communications	PreparednessBC EMBC Online Communications
 @BCGovFireInfo	 @EmergencyInfoBC	 @PreparedBC
 www.bcwildfire.ca	 www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca	 www.gov.bc.ca/preparedBC
 BC Wildfire Service		 PreparedBC

FIRE 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) 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	The fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.

WILDFIRE RANKS:

Rank	Description
1	<p>Characteristics: Smouldering ground fire, no open flame, white smoke, slow (i.e. creeping) rate of fire spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools and water delivery systems (i.e. pumps and hose).</p>
2	<p>Characteristics: Surface fire, visible, open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front, slow rate of spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools, water delivery systems, or heavy equipment. Hand constructed control lines and lines that have been cleared of combustible material will likely be successful.</p>
3	<p>Characteristics: Organised flame front – fire progressing in organised manner, occasional candling may be observed along the perimeter and/or within the fire, moderate rate of spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Hand constructed control lines alone are likely to be challenged, ground crews conducting direct attack may require air support from fixed-wing air tankers, skimmers or helicopters conducting bucketing or tanking operations. Control lines constructed by heavy equipment will generally be effective</p>
4	<p>Characteristics: Grey to black smoke, organised surface flame front, moderate to fast rate of spread on the ground, short aerial bursts through the forest canopy, short-range spotting.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Ground operations may not be successful at the head of the fire, indirect tactics may be required to bring the head of the fire under control. Parallel attack may be used along the flanks of the fire to direct the head into favourable ground or fuels. Air operations may be required to support ground personnel.</p>
5	<p>Characteristics: Black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and spot fire growth.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: The limited options available include indirect attack and planned ignitions to remove fuel in the path of this type of fire behaviour. Ground operations are often restricted to fighting the least active sections of the fire or conducting ground ignition operations from secure control lines with readily available escape routes and safety zones.</p>
6	<p>Characteristics: Organised crown fire front, long-range spotting and independent spot fire growth, possible fireballs and whirls, violent fire behaviour probable, a dominant smoke column may develop which influences fire behaviour.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Firefighting under these conditions is extremely dangerous. Suppression efforts will be well away from active fire behaviour and may include preparing structure protection measures or conducting indirect large-scale ignition operations in an attempt to steer the fire. Often, the safest and most prudent strategy is to pull resources back to safe areas, ensure that personnel and the general public are safe, and wait for fire behaviour to lessen before re-engaging in fire suppression operations.</p>

