BC Wildfire Service

August 25, 2021

WILDFIRE UPDATE

White Rock Lake	FIRE SIZE	FIRE STATUS
K61884	81,301 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 sunny with occasional cloud developing into the evening. A maximum temperature of 21 degrees, with a minimum Relative Humidity near 25%. Winds were out of the southeast today, which was favourable conditions for a planned ignition operation to occur on the southeast flank of the fire.

WEATHER OUTLOOK: Thursday, an upper trough will push a more unstable southwesterly flow into the interior, with a slight chance of showers. Temperatures will cool by a few degrees but still remain in the low 20s. Southwesterly winds will develop with some areas of gusty winds expected. This trend is expected to continue into Friday, with slightly higher Relative Humdities.

RESOURCES:

Wildland Firefighters – 283

Heavy Equipment – 60

Danger tree assessors/fallers – nine

Helicopters – 12 assigned

Incident Management Team

Today, August 25, on the southeast flank of the White Rock Lake wildfire, planned ignitions were used to secure the fire perimeter burning north of Terrace Mountain, west towards the fire perimeter above Shorts Creek. The aerial ignitions removed approximately 450 hectares of fuel between the fire's edge and the pre-established control line.

SUCCESSFUL PLANNED IGNITIONS:

Yesterday, August 24, ground and aerial personnel successfully completed a small-scale 350 hectare planned ignition along the northeastern flank of the fire perimeter, north of Newport Beach towards Irish Creek Road. As shown in the photo below, the fire's edge is now tied into the pre-established control line where crews can effectively apply water. Prior to these planned ignitions, this flank of the fire was burning in steep inaccessible terrain where it was unsafe for ground personnel to work.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

White Rock Lake Information Section

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

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BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

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PLANNED IGNITION OPERATIONS TO SECURE THE WHITE ROCK LAKE WILDFIRE:

The BC Wildfire Service has been preparing for several days for a series of planned ignition operations to occur on the White Rock Lake wildfire. The objective of these planned ignitions is to bring the fire's perimeter down to pre-established control lines where ground crews can effectively put out the fire's edge.

Due to steep and inaccessible terrain on the northeast and southeast flanks, BC Wildfire Service personnel have determined that planned ignitions in these areas is the most favourable tactic to gain control while also maintaining an appropriate safety margin for firefighters.

Yesterday, August 24, 2021, ground and aerial personnel successfully completed a small-scale 350 hectare planned ignition along the northeastern flank of the fire perimeter, north of Newport Beach towards Irish Creek Road. This ignition burned at a relatively low intensity along the understory. The ignition was critical to securing the area east of the larger-scale planned ignition set to occur in the coming week. Winds on-site today, August 25, were out of the southeast 10-15 kilometres per hour, gusting up to 30 kilometres per hour. Winds from the southeast are not favourable for the larger-scale planned ignition operation in this area. Therefore, the larger-scale planned ignition operation on the northeast flank was not carried out today. If and when site conditions are favourable, additional information will be provided prior to ignition. For information about the larger-scale planned ignition on the northeast flank, please refer to the information bulletin here.

On the southeast flank of the White Rock Lake wildfire, planned ignitions were used to secure the fire perimeter burning north of Terrace Mountain, west towards the fire perimeter above Shorts Creek. Given the forecasted winds out of the southeast, conditions on-site were ideal and allowed aerial resources to successfully carry out these planned ignitions this afternoon. The ignitions took place northwest of Fintry Park and removed approximately 450 hectares of fuel between the fire's edge and the pre-established control line.

Planned ignitions on the White Rock Lake wildfire are being carried out with low intensity aerial and hand ignitions. Aerial resources are using Plastic Sphere Dispensers (PSD) to ignite fuels from the fire's edge, which is burning in steep terrain where it is unsafe for ground personnel to work. As the PSDs bring the fire's perimeter towards the control lines, ground crews use hand ignitions where possible to ensure containment along control lines.

EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

The following government authorities have implemented Evacuation Alerts and Orders. Please contact the applicable local authority for more details.

Thompson-Nicola Regional District / 250-377-7188
Columbia-Shuswap Regional District / 250-833-3350
Regional District of North Okanagan /250-550-3700
Okanagan Indian Band/ OKIBEOCInformationOfficer@okanagan.org/ 250-241-5809
Regional District of Central Okanagan / 250-469-8490 (local) or 1-877-569-8490 (toll-free)
Splatsín First Nation
The City of Vernon
Township of Spallumcheen

AREA RESTRICTION ORDER:

The BC Wildfire Service has expanded the 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.

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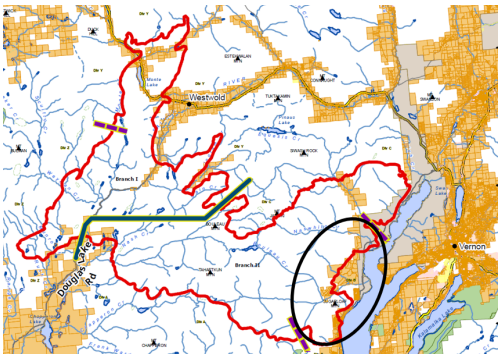
WILDFIRE UPDATE

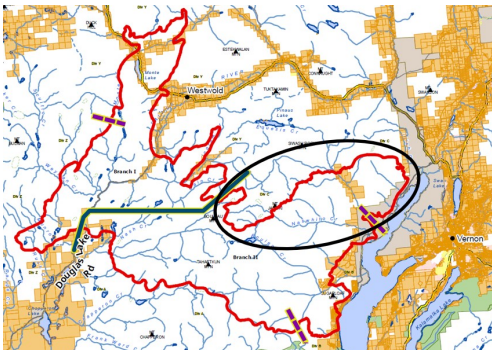
OBJECTIVES:

Division Bravo (east flank): 115 wildland firefighters, 7 heavy equipment, aerial support



Crews and equipment will continue to defend pre-established containment lines above communities and protect structures. 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 has re-established a control line previously used on the Terrace Mountain fire (2009) and tied into the pre-established guard at Stuart Lake. Today, aerial resources completed a 450 hectare planned ignition operation along this control line, north of Terrace Mountain. This ignition operation is the final piece to securing safety for residents in the area. Once complete, the BC Wildfire Service will reassess the safety of the area and recommend changes to evacuation orders and alerts accordingly.

Division Charlie (northeast flank): 70 wildland firefighters, 10 heavy equipment, aerial support



Yesterday, August 24, 2021, ground and aerial personnel successfully completed a small-scale 350 hectare planned ignition along the northeastern flank of the fire perimeter, north of Newport Beach towards Irish Creek Road. This ignition burned at a relatively low intensity along the understory. Yesterday's planned ignition operation did not and does not pose a risk to life or safety.

The ignition was critical to securing the area east of the larger-scale planned ignition set to occur in the coming week. Winds on-site today, August 25, are forecast to be out of the southeast 10-15 kilometres per hour, gusting up to 30 kilometres per hour. Increased behaviour is expected along the northern ridge of Six Mile Creek where terrain is inoperable for ground crews. The visible fire behaviour is not related to the planned ignition operation that successfully occurred yesterday and does not pose a risk to structures. Winds from the southeast are not favourable for the larger-scale planned ignition operation in this area. Therefore, the larger-scale planned ignition operation on the northeast flank will not be carried out tomorrow. If and when site conditions are favourable, additional information will be provided prior to ignition. 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.

Structure Protection Branch:

The structure protection branch consists 102 structure protection personnel from various fire departments. Two Type 1 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailers, seven Type 2 SPU trailer, 13 engines, five mass-water delivery systems, one water boat and 12 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 of Killiney, Okanagan Indian Band IR #1, and Six Mile Road. Structure protection apparatuses will continue to be mobilized in areas where the wildfire is of greater threat.

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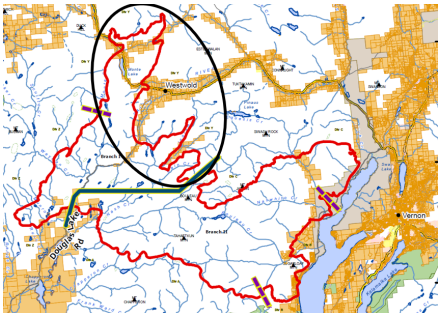
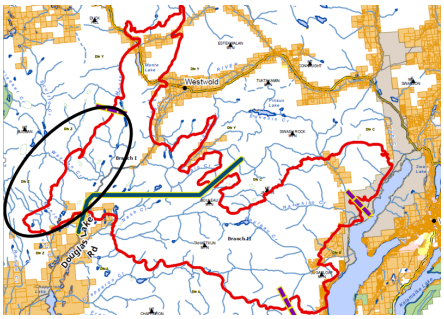


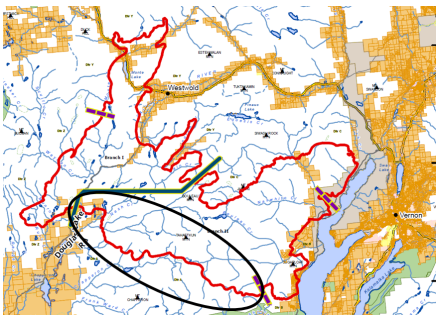
Division Yankee (north flank): 61 wildland firefighters, 4 heavy equipment, aerial support

Today, crews continue to focus on mop-up along the Ingram Forest Service Road and work on actioning hot spots. There continues to be no growth along all fire perimeters of the northern finger north of Highway 97 and down towards Woods Lake.



Division Zulu (west flank): 37 firefighters. 1 heavy equipment, aerial resources

No growth has been observed along this flank over the past week. Crews will continue mop-up and patrol from Torch Road to Monte Pratt today.



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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