



White Rock Lake

K61884

FIRE SIZE

82,000 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: Mainly cloudy with sunny breaks persisting into mid-afternoon. 10% chance of a shower starting mid-afternoon. A maximum temperature of 19 degrees, minimum relative humidity of 34%. Winds are becoming west-southwest 10-20 km/hr, gusting to 30-40 km/hr, with locally higher gusts possible in valleys.

WEATHER OUTLOOK: An unsettled weather pattern will persist into Friday as the trough moves into the interior. Temperatures linger near 20 degrees and relative humidity values remain down into the 30s. Moderate and gusty winds are also expected, southwest and northwesterly.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE:

Crews continue to extinguish deep burning fuels that are persistent throughout the east flank of the fire as a result of severe drought conditions. Crews are making good progress on mop-up and patrol activities along the south, west and northern flanks of the fire.

BC Hydro crews continue to work along Westside Road to remove danger trees and restore power lines where required. During the wind event on August 15, there was a substantial amount of damage to power lines. Restoring damages where feasible is crucial to ensure safety for residents before they return home.

PLANNED IGNITION OPERATIONS:

A 350-hectare planned ignition operation on August 24, successfully brought the fire's edge down to workable ground along the northeastern flank. Planned ignition operations are critical to achieve containment in areas where the fire perimeter is inoperable and unsafe for ground crews and heavy equipment to work. 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 26, are again not favourable for the 3000-hectare larger-scale ignition operation planned in this area. If and when site conditions are favourable, additional information will be provided prior to ignition.

Yesterday, August 25, planned ignitions were successfully used to secure the fire perimeter burning north of Terrace Mountain, west towards the fire perimeter above Shorts Creek along the southeast flank (shown in photo). The aerial ignitions removed approximately 600 -hectares of fuel between the fire's edge and the pre-established control line.

For more information about planned ignition operations on the White Rock Lake wildfire, please visit the [Information Bulletin](#) on the Wildfire of Note page.

RESOURCES:

Wildland Firefighters – 295

Heavy Equipment – 44

Danger tree assessors/fallers – nine

Helicopters – 14 assigned

Incident Management Team



ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

White Rock Lake Information Section

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


www.bcwildfire.ca

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The 20-person Thunderbird Unit Crew, based out of Port Alberni, builds a fuel free buffer zone on the White Rock Lake wildfire. Fuel free buffer zones are an area clear of fuel and are generally used in steep areas where heavy equipment is unable to work.

So far this season, this unit crew has been deployment to Quebec, the Sparks Lake wildfire, and the White Rock Lake wildfire. They are currently on their fifth, 14-day deployment of the season.



Photo Credit: Rick Collins

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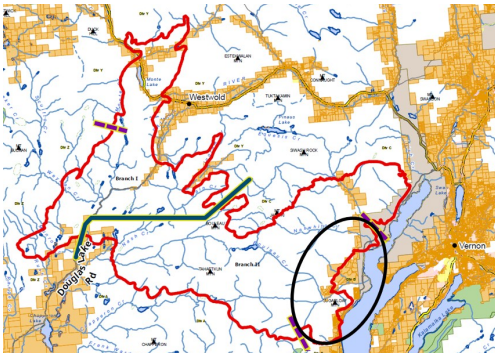


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OBJECTIVES:

Division Bravo (east flank): 119 wildland firefighters, 11 heavy equipment, aerial support



Crews and equipment are continuing to patrol and mop-up throughout the Six Mile Creek valley bottom. An infrared scan will be completed this evening which will help crews identify hot spots throughout this flank of the fire. 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. Yesterday, planned ignitions along the southeast flank 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 600-hectares of fuel between the fire's edge and the pre-established control line. A 20-person unit crew remained on-site through the night to set-up a hose-lay along this control line to begin mop-up. This ignition operation was the final piece to securing safety for residents in this area. Once mop-up is 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): 94 wildland firefighters, 6 heavy equipment, aerial support



Crews are continuing to work on a 100 ft blackline into the fire's edge where the August 24 small-scale 350 hectare planned ignition was completed along northeastern flank, north of Newport Beach towards Irish Creek Road. 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 26, are not favourable for the large-scale ignition operation planned along this flank and, therefore, the 3000-hectare planned ignition operation will not be carried out today. If and when site conditions are favourable, additional information will be provided prior to ignition. Increased fire behaviour is expected to continue today 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 on August 24 and does not pose a risk to structures.

Structure Protection Branch:

The structure protection branch consists 103 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.

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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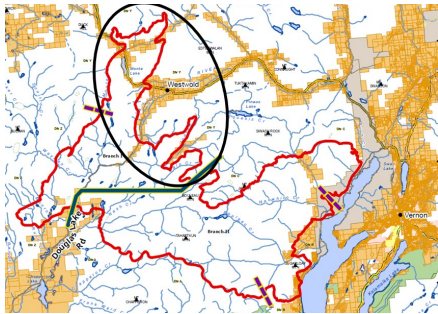




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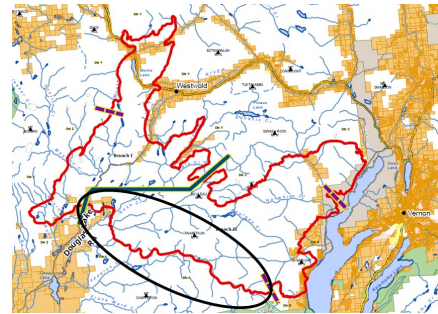
Division Yankee (north flank): 43 wildland firefighters, 3 heavy equipment, aerial support

Today, crews continue will complete mop-up operations along the Ingram Forest Service Road. An infrared drone scan was completed along this flank to help crews action hotspots within 50 feet of the fire perimeter.



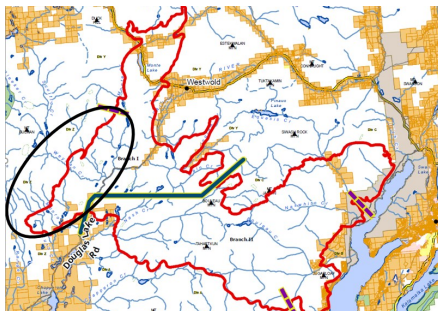
Division Alpha (south flank): aerial resources

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 .



Division Zulu (west flank): 39 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.



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/ OKIBEOCInformation-Officer@okanagan.org](#) / 250-241-5809

[Regional District of Central Okanagan](#) / 250-469-8490 (local) or 1-877-569-8490

[Splatsin First Nation](#)

[The City of Vernon](#)

[Township of Spallumcheen](#)

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