BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

August 28, 2021

WILDFIRE UPDATE

White Rock Lake	FIRE SIZE	FIRE STATUS
K61884	81,362 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.

RESOURCES:

Wildland Firefighters – 281

Heavy Equipment – 40

Danger tree assessors/fallers – seven

Helicopters – 14 assigned

Incident Management Team

CONDITIONS:

TODAY: Sunny with occasional afternoon cloudy periods. MAX TEMP: 23 degrees MIN RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 32% WINDS: light and variable becoming south/southeast 10-20 km/hr gusting to 30-40 km/hr, easing and shifting west/northwest late in the day.

WEATHER OUTLOOK: The effects of the ridge will linger for Sunday with more sunshine around, along with continued warming temperatures into the low to mid 20's. Light, occasionally moderate winds from the south are expected to persist, wish some afternoon gustiness in the valleys. Persistent drought conditions will continue to result in deep burning ground fuels, hot spots and burnt out root systems.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE:

Crews continue to see positive progress along all flanks of the fire. Infrared drone scans will continue to be carried out along the west, east and northern flanks to help personnel target remaining hot spots along these flanks. The expansive size of the fire continues to require a substantial workforce to ensure mop-up and patrol operations are thorough throughout the entire fire perimeter. Today, 60 Canadian Armed Forces personnel are arriving on-site and beginning tomorrow, an additional 60 Canadian Armed Forces personnel will arrive to assist with patrol efforts along the west and north flanks of the fire.

PLANNED IGNITION OPERATIONS:

Over the past several days, small-scale planned ignition operations have been used on both the northeast and southeast flanks of the fire in areas where the fire was burning in steep and inaccessible terrain. These ignition operations have helped to secure the fire perimeter along these flanks and has been key to ensuring safety for residents before they are allowed back in.

Yesterday afternoon, 5 mm of rain was received in the Fintry area, as well as minimal amounts in other areas of the fire. As a result of rain received in the Six Mile Creek area, conditions on-site today are again not favourable for the 3000-hectare planned ignition operation.

As shown in this video, 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. Watch the video on the BC Wildfire Service **@BCForestFireInfo** Facebook page. **Learn more: Planned Ignition Operations to secure the White Rock Lake wildfire.**

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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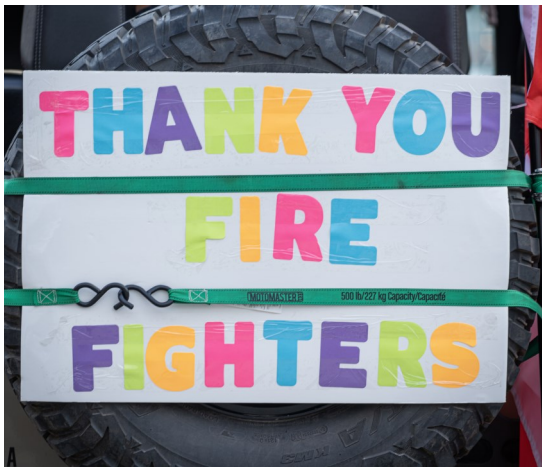
Thank you to all of the dedicated ground personnel who have been tirelessly working day in and day out on the White Rock Lake wildfire.



Thank you firefighters photo by Billy Stevens

Firefighter portraits by Rick Collins

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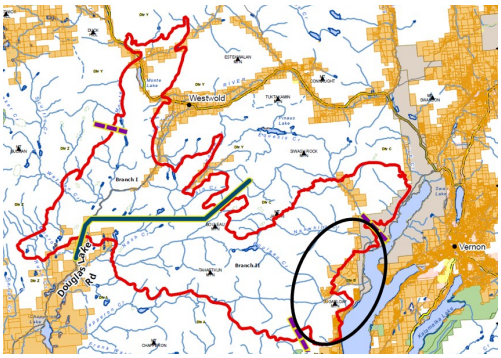
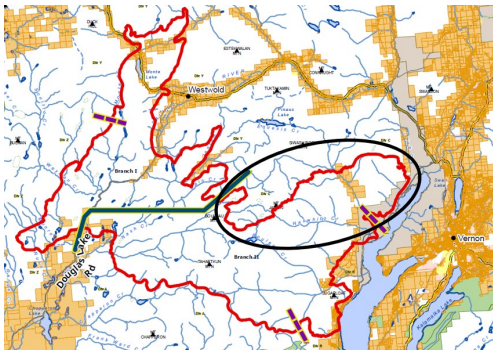
OBJECTIVES:

Division Bravo (east flank): 87 wildland firefighters, 7 pieces of heavy equipment, aerial support



Crews are making good progress actioning any hot spots identified along the southeast flank. 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): 112 wildland firefighters, 4 pieces of heavy equipment, aerial support



As a result of rain received in the Six Mile Creek area, conditions on-site today will again be unfavourable for the 3000-hectare planned ignition operation. If and when site conditions are favourable, additional information will be provided prior to ignition. Crews in the Ewer Creek and Irish Creek areas are continuing to fully extinguish the fire perimeter in the area where the planned ignition occurred on August 24, and are continuing to work on a 100 ft blackline into the fire's edge.

Structure Protection Branch:

The structure protection branch consists 92 structure protection personnel from various fire departments. Two Type 1 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailers, six 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 apparatuses will continue to be mobilized in areas where the wildfire is of greater threat. Structure protection personnel are remaining on-site through the night to patrol from Highway 97 down Westside Road to Valley of the Sun.

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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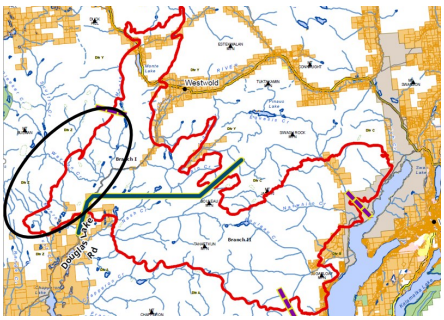
OBJECTIVES:

Division Yankee (north flank): 25 wildland firefighters, 3 pieces of 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. Crews today are actioning hot spots north of Highway 97.

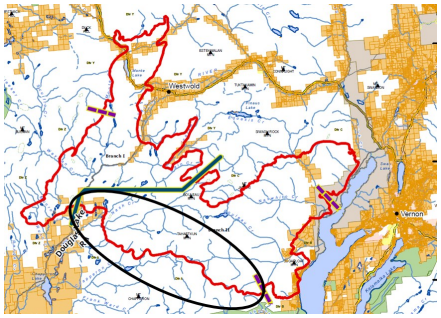
Division Zulu (west flank): 57 firefighters. 3 pieces of heavy equipment, aerial resources

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, as well as from Highway 97B to Torch Road. Danger Tree Assessments are currently being completed in preparation for having military personnel commence patrolling in the area tomorrow.



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 .



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
Splatsín First Nation
The City of Vernon
Township of Spallumcheen

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