

# CASCADES COMPLEX UPDATE: July Mountain (K61882) Wildfire

Fire activity remains relatively stable, with pockets of smouldering ground fire scattered throughout the fire perimeter that are producing smoke that is highly visible from the Coquihalla and surrounding areas. Sunday, there are 94 firefighters assigned to the incident that are continuing to work on hot-spots, patrol and mop-up. On Thursday, the July Mountain fire received 4 mm of rain which helped to reduce fire activity. Warmer weather over the weekend led to a slight increase in fire activity and smokier skies, this will likely be mitigated by the cooler weather that is forecast for the beginning of this week.

Infrared scans will be carried out along the west, east and northern flanks to help personnel target remaining hot spots along these flanks and near affected communities.

An area restriction will take effect by the end of day on August 30, 2021 in the vicinity of the July Mountain wildfire, more information is available in on the [Bans and Restrictions page](#).

The BC Wildfire Service reminds members of the public that the July Mountain wildfire is an active worksite and they should exercise caution at all times while travelling in the area. Members of the public should be aware that significant safety hazards may be present in areas affected by wildfire. Trees that have been damaged by fire might be unstable and could fall. Ash pits can be hard to detect and can remain hot long after the flames have died down. Nearby communities can still expect to see smoke within the fire's perimeter over the coming weeks. This is common with large wildfires, and smoke will continue to be visible until there is significant rainfall at the site. Smoke appearing from well within the fire perimeter and burned material is common. However, smoke that rises from green, unburned fuel or from outside of fire's perimeter should be reported. To report a wildfire or open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or \*5555 on a cellphone.



Hot spot north of Kane Valley, August 29, 2021.



Coquihalla Corridor, facing south, August 29, 2021.

## ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cascades Complex Information Section (see [Wildfires of Note](#) for updates)

Telephone: 250 713-8522 | Email: [BCWS.CascadesComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCWS.CascadesComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca)



# CASCADES COMPLEX UPDATE: July Mountain (K61882) Wildfire

Crews are mopping up, and paroling for hot-spots. Sunday afternoon, helicopters were bucketing hot-spot north of Brookmere and using direct attack on a hot spot north of Kane Valley.

Crews continue to mop-up and patrol the NE finger.

Fire Activity remains relatively low, with pockets of smouldering ground fire scattered within the fire perimeter.

Heavy equipment have established machine guard to reinforce containment lines upslope from Fig Lake, along the Coldwater River south towards Fig Lake.

Heavy equipment and firefighters are reinforcing control lines north of Murray Lake. Monday, crews and personnel will be working on hot-spots upslope on the east side of Murray Lake.

Hot spots in the Coquihalla Corridor continue to produce smoke that is highly visible to highway traffic.

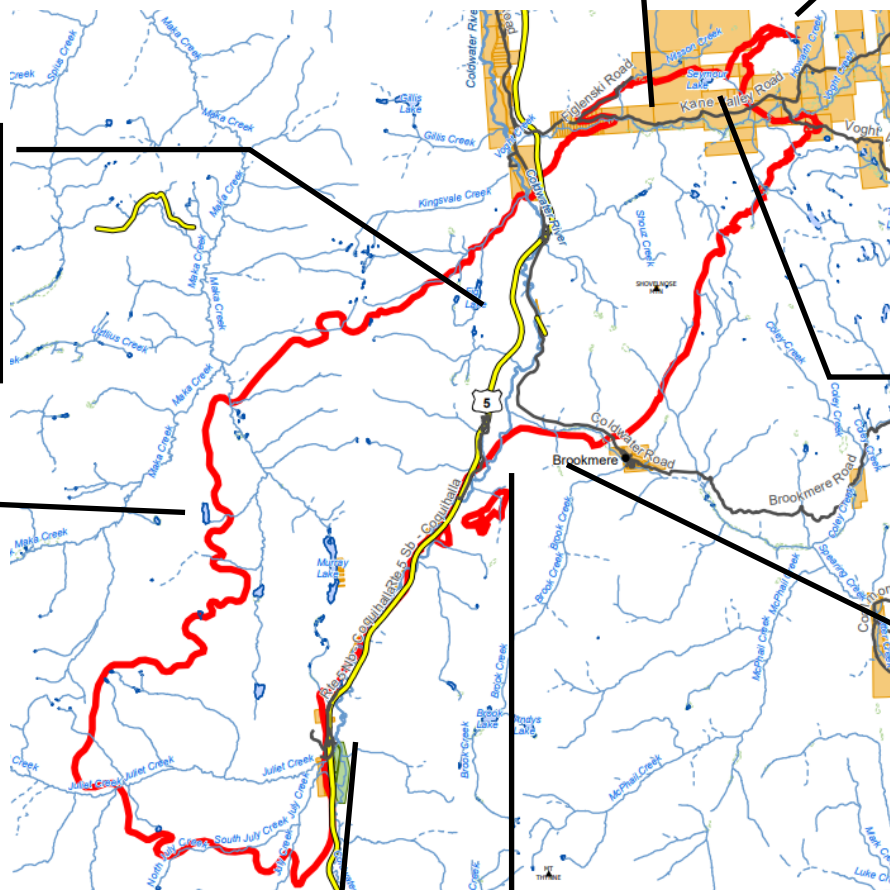
Danger tree assessors and fallers are working to reassess priority areas and work areas that continue to burn.

Heavy equipment are working on hot spots from Seymour Lake to Kane Valley Road.

Crews are mopping up and using direct attack on hot spots north of Brookmere.

Structure protection equipment is being demobilized.

Active wildfire suppression continues.



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Telephone: 250 713-8522 | Email: [BCWS.CascadesComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCWS.CascadesComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca)

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

# CASCADES COMPLEX UPDATE: Garrison Lake (K62088) Wildfire

Fire activity remains relatively stable, with pockets of smouldering ground fire scattered throughout the fire perimeter and elevated fire behaviour in areas of low-concern to public safety and infrastructure. Warmer weather over the weekend led to a slight increase in fire activity and smokier skies, this will likely be mitigated by the cooler weather that is forecast as of Tuesday.

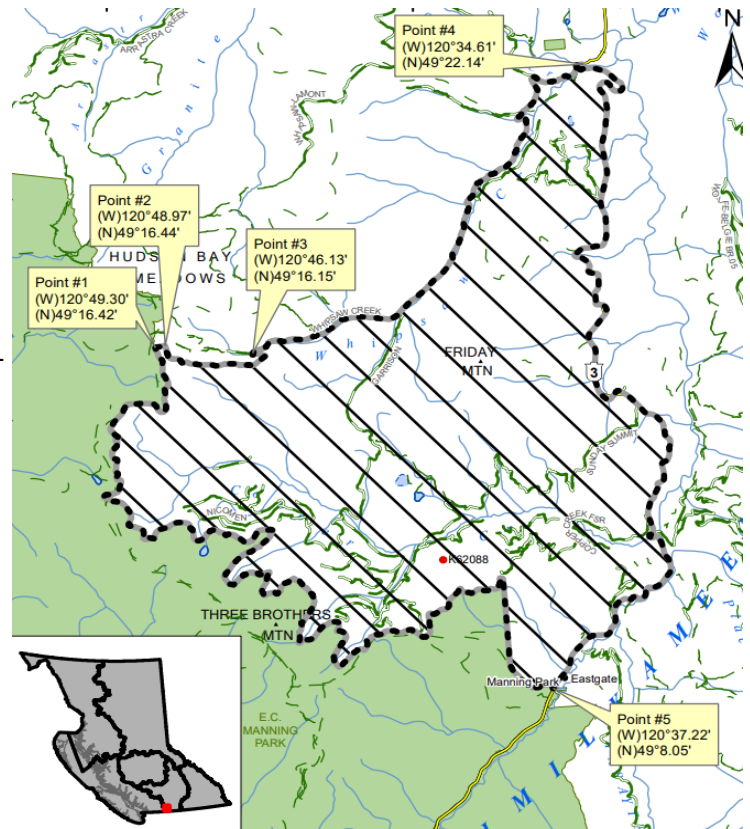
An area restriction remains in place in the vicinity of the Garrison Lake wildfire, more information is available in the [Information Bulletin](#).

Ground crews will continue to work to reinforce containment lines and address hot spots within the fire perimeter.

As of 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 29 2021, the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen downgraded the Evacuation Orders and Alerts, for details visit: [the RDOS webpage](#).

The BC Wildfire Service reminds members of the public that the Garrison Lake wildfire is an active worksite and they should exercise caution at all times while travelling in the area. Before entering any area affected by a wildfire, members of the public should be aware that significant safety hazards may be present.

Trees that have been damaged by fire might be unstable and could fall. Ash pits can be hard to detect and can remain hot long after the flames have died down. Nearby communities can still expect to see smoke within the fire's perimeter over the coming weeks. This is common with large wildfires, and smoke will continue to be visible until there is significant rainfall at the site. Smoke appearing from well within the fire perimeter and burned material is common. However, smoke that rises from green, unburned fuel or from outside of fire's perimeter should be reported. To report a wildfire or open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or \*5555 on a cellphone.



Area restriction boundary map available [here](#).

## ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cascades Complex Information Section (see [Wildfires of Note](#) for updates)

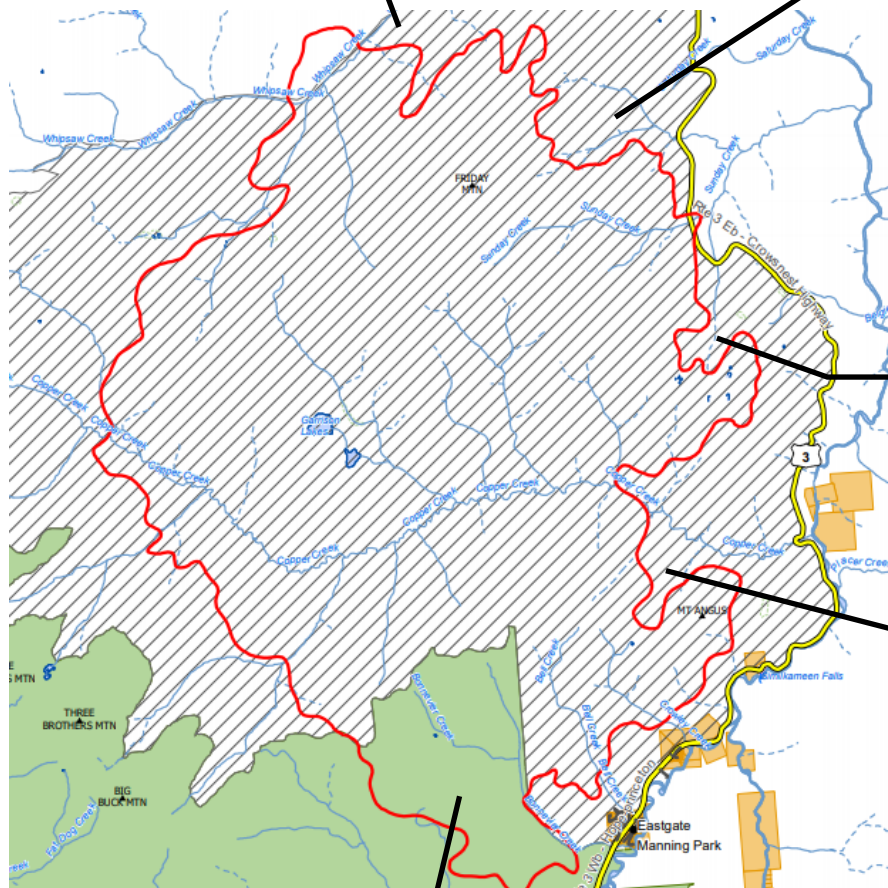
Telephone: 250 713-8522 (see | Email: [BCWS.CascadesComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCWS.CascadesComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca))



# CASCADES COMPLEX UPDATE: Garrison Lake (K62088) Wildfire

Crews are mopping up, and patrolling for hot-spots. They are assisted by skidders and water tenders to provide water where necessary .

Crews continue to mop-up from Friday Mountain to Sunday Summit and patrol the perimeter for hot spots along the guard to Sunday Creek.



Danger tree assessors and fallers are working to reassess work areas that continue to burn.

Crews are mopping up and using direct attack on hot spots within 100ft of containment lines on the west side of Highway 3. Active wildfire suppression continues.

Hot spots in Manning Park continue to produce smoke that is highly visible from Highway 3 and surrounding areas.

## ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cascades Complex Information Section (see [Wildfires of Note](#) for updates)

Telephone: 250 713-8522 (see | Email: [BCWS.CascadesComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCWS.CascadesComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca))

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



# CASCADES COMPLEX UPDATE

## Claims and Damages:

For information about evacuation orders and alerts, or inquiries related to private property please contact the local Regional District.

### July Mountain wildfire:

Thompson Nicola Regional District:  
Emergency Operations Centre  
Phone: 250-377-7188  
Toll Free in BC: 1-866-377-7188  
[emergency@tnrd.ca](mailto:emergency@tnrd.ca)

### Garrison Lake wildfire:

Regional District Okanagan Similkameen  
Emergency Operations Centre (EOC):  
250-490-4225

Inquiries about compensation for damage to property as a result of fire suppression can be;

emailed to: [BCWSClaims@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCWSClaims@gov.bc.ca)

or mailed to:

BC Wildfire Service Victoria HQ  
2957 Jutland Road  
PO BOX 9502 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8W 9C1

Please write "Attention Claims"

## FireSmart BC:

Individual British Columbians can play a critical role in mitigating wildfire risks around their homes and properties by undertaking FireSmart initiatives.

Given the effects of climate change and the number of homes being developed in forested areas, B.C. residents need to participate in proven FireSmart activities to help protect their homes and neighbourhoods from wildfires.

The FireSmart program was developed to help people reduce the risk of personal property damage due to wildfires. FireSmart is the Canadian standard recognized by all provinces and territories. It is based on National Fire Protection Association standards that have evolved over the last 40 years.

FireSmart is backed by a vast amount of field, laboratory and modelling research. Its methods have been demonstrated time and time again to reduce the risk of losses, even under the most extreme fire conditions.

The *FireSmart Begins at Home Manual* and more information about the FireSmart program are available online: [www.firesmartbc.ca](http://www.firesmartbc.ca)

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

## HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- View an interactive map by clicking [here](http://ow.ly/uo2U30oXqzS) or visiting <http://ow.ly/uo2U30oXqzS>
- **Road Closures:** DriveBC | dial 1-800-550-4997 | <https://www.drivebc.ca/>
- **Drifting Smoke:** [www.bcairquality.ca/bluesky/west/index.html](http://www.bcairquality.ca/bluesky/west/index.html)
- **Smoke Health Concerns:** HealthLink BC | dial 8-1-1 | [www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp)
- For info on **Community Support Services**, click [here](http://ow.ly/uo2U30oXqzS) or visit <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>

| ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| BC Wildfire Service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Emergency Management BC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Local municipalities and regional districts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | First Nations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- BCWS speaks directly about <b>wildfires</b> (i.e. fire status, operations, etc.) and is responsible for disseminating wildfire updates to local governments, stakeholders, First Nations and the public.</li> <li>- BCWS does <u>not</u> announce Strategic Evacuation Orders or Alerts.</li> <li>- BCWS <u>does</u> announce Tactical Evacuations.</li> <li>- In the event of an imminent threat to public safety, BCWS can authorize an immediate <b>Tactical Evacuation</b> of the affected area.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EMBC coordinates communication across all agencies and stakeholders to support communities.</li> <li>- EMBC provides advice to evacuees and support to communities regarding Emergency Operations Centres and Emergency Support Services.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local Municipalities and Regional Districts speak directly about <b>Strategic Evacuation Orders and Alerts</b> in their respective jurisdictions.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On IR lands, Evacuation Orders and Alerts are implemented by a Band Council Resolution or other.</li> <li>- A designated person(s) from the respective First Nations community will speak to Evacuation Orders and Alerts on IR lands.</li> </ul> |

| ACCESSING INFORMATION                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BC Wildfire Service<br>Online Communications                                                                                                                    | EmergencyInfoBC<br>EMBC Online Communications                                                                                                                        | PreparednessBC<br>EMBC Online Communications                                                                                                                 |
|  <a href="https://twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo">@BCGovFireInfo</a>               | <a href="https://twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC">@EmergencyInfoBC</a>                                                                                                   | <a href="https://twitter.com/PreparedBC">@PreparedBC</a>                                                                                                     |
|  <a href="http://www.bcwildfire.ca">www.bcwildfire.ca</a>                     |  <a href="http://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca">www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca</a> |  <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/preparedBC">www.gov.bc.ca/preparedBC</a> |
|  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BCWildfireService">BC Wildfire Service</a> |  <a href="#">BCWS Mobile App</a>                                                  | <a href="#">PreparedBC</a>                                                                                                                                   |

## FIRE STAGES OF CONTROL:

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Out of Control</b> | 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.                                                                                  |
| <b>Being Held</b>     | 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. |
| <b>Under Control</b>  | The fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.                                                                                                                                                       |

## WILDFIRE RANKS:

| Rank | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | <p><b>Characteristics:</b> Smouldering ground fire, no open flame, white smoke, slow (i.e. creeping) rate of fire spread.</p> <p><b>Firefighting tactics:</b> Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools and water delivery systems (i.e. pumps and hose).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2    | <p><b>Characteristics:</b> Surface fire, visible, open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front, slow rate of spread.</p> <p><b>Firefighting tactics:</b> 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><b>Characteristics:</b> 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><b>Firefighting tactics:</b> 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><b>Characteristics:</b> 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><b>Firefighting tactics:</b> 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><b>Characteristics:</b> Black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and spot fire growth.</p> <p><b>Firefighting tactics:</b> 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><b>Characteristics:</b> 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><b>Firefighting tactics:</b> 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> |



RANK 1

RANK 2

RANK 3

RANK 4

RANK 5

RANK 6