



White Rock Lake

K61884

FIRE SIZE

81,362 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: A mix of sun and cloud. MAX TEMP: 21° MIN RH: near 28%. WINDS: light and variable becoming WNW 10-20 gusting to 40 km/h, with locally higher gusts possible due to terrain.

WEATHER OUTLOOK: The upper low in the north is expected to drop southward through the province, bringing cooler temperatures, increasing cloud and a chance of showers. Winds are expected to remain moderate and northwesterly as a second surface trough drops southward through the province as well. Into Wednesday, this pattern remains with clouds, more potential for showers, and lingering cooler temperatures.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE:

Crews continue to increase containment along all flanks of the fire. No additional growth has occurred in several days. Infrared drone scans will continue to be carried out on the fire to help personnel target hot spots. 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. 120 Canadian Armed Forces are engaged in mop up and patrol efforts along the west and north flanks of the fire. Objectives set out for each division will remain fairly static going forward as most of the fire is in mop up and patrol status.

PLANNED IGNITION OPERATIONS:

The planned ignition is currently underway and is ~50% complete. A column will be visible from surrounding communities, and increased smoke in the area may be observed this evening. The operation is meeting the object of fine to medium woody debris removal, while leaving the majority of large timber. 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. Planned ignitions are the safest way to remove fuel that can burn well into fall and winter by the wildfire. In 2018, fires that occurred in severe drought areas burned underground over winter and started burning in the spring again. Given the extreme drought over the wildfire area, the large scale ignition in the Irish Creek Rd area is critical to ensure that the fire perimeter is secure as possible with no fuel available for further growth. Without these ignitions, the wildfire will continue to burn out of control into fall in heavy fuels with the potential to impact Hwy 97 and the surrounding interface.



White Rock Lake planned ignitions on August 30, 2021.

RESOURCES:

Wildland Firefighters – 352

Heavy Equipment – 40

Danger tree assessors/fallers – 5

Helicopters – 14 assigned

Incident Management Team

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

White Rock Lake Information Section

Telephone: 778-694-0787 | Email: BCWS.WhiteRockInfo@gov.bc.ca



www.bcwildfire.ca



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www.firesmartbc.ca



A significant amount of time and effort went into creating the fuel free pictured here in the Ewer Creek area.

This guard was critical to the success of the planned ignitions on August 30, 2021. The fuel free took over two weeks to complete, and was done completely by hand as the ground was inoperable for heavy equipment.

The Thunderbirds Unit Crew, Rangers Unit Crew, and Rapattack India are pictured here. Ground crews put in a lot of effort to create safe and effective guard that will allow successful containment of the White Rock Lake wildfire.

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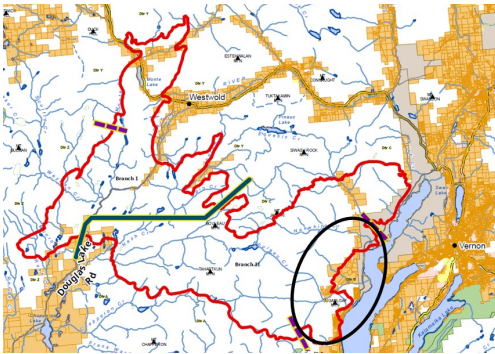


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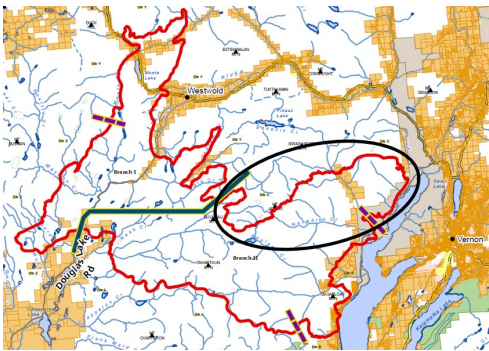
OBJECTIVES:

Division Bravo (east flank): 66 wildland firefighters, 6 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. Crews are working the southeast flank (Fintry) to put it into patrol status this week. In the Naswhite and Banks Rd area crews are extinguishing visible smokes.

Division Charlie (northeast flank): 90 wildland firefighters, 3 pieces of heavy equipment, aerial support



Implement suppression plan and complete holding action on Ewer Creek by Aug 31st. Implement suppression plan and holding action for Irish/Banks Creek ignition mission. Conditions on-site are favourable for the 3000-hectare ignition in Irish Creek, today, Aug 30th. This mission will occur in three phases and involve aerial ignitions (heli-torch & PSD machine) and hand ignitions by crews.

Structure Protection Branch:

The structure protection branch consists of 28 structure protection personnel from various fire departments. Two Type 1 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailers, six Type 2 SPU trailer, two engines, five mass-water delivery systems, one water boat and three water tenders are also assigned to the structure protection branch. Structure protection has a plan to support the Irish Creek planned ignition.

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): 86 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. 100' mop up in the Paxton Valley will be complete this week. Adelphi to Grange patrol will be done this week.



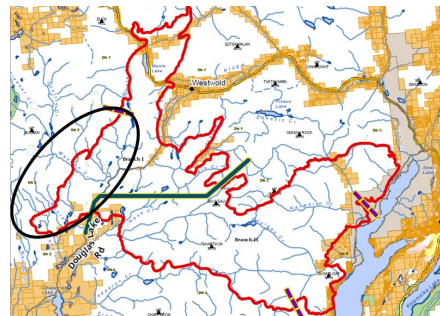
Division Alpha (south flank): aerial resources

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): 110 firefighters, 2 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. Mop up and patrol from Douglas Lake Road to Monte Pratt will be complete this week.



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/](mailto:OKIBEOCInformationOfficer@okanagan.org)
250-241-5809

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

[Splatsh First Nation](#)

[The City of Vernon](#)

[Township of Spallumcheen](#)

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