BC Wildfire Service

August 3, 2021 (Vol 10.)

WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX

Octopus Creek Wildfire
(N51800)
Size: 18,337 hectares
Status: Out of control
Cause: Lightning
57 firefighters , 12 pieces of heavy equipment

Michaud Creek Wildfire
(N51765)
Size: 8,847 hectares
Status: Out of control
Cause: Lightning
33 firefighters, 20 pieces of heavy equipment

Renata Creek Wildfire
(N51688)
Size: 2,801 hectares
Status: Out of control
Cause: Lightning
1 firefighter, 8 pieces of heavy equipment

Incident Management Team and General Complex: 15 firefighters, 18 support personnel, 5 helicopters

There are currently a total of **124 firefighters, 40 pieces of heavy equipment and 5 helicopters** assigned to the Arrow Lake Complex. Additional aircraft is available, if requested.

GENERAL WILDFIRE COMPLEX UPDATES:

The Regional District of Central Kootenay's have made many changes this morning regarding the evacuation orders and alerts. We encourage everyone to visit their website and be familiar with the new boundaries and public safety information (visit www.rdck.ca).

For the residents of Fauquier and Renata who are now on evacuation alert, structure protection will remain in the community until the alert is lifted. We kindly ask that the structure protection assets such as hoses, holding pools and sprinklers, not be relocated or removed as they are strategically placed by trained firefighters.

For residents who are located in areas where the alert has been lifted, structure protection assets will be taken down over the coming days.

We ask that residents stay away from burnt forested areas. There is a significant risk of trees falling due to burnt out roots and/or wind events causing trees to fall over. With the extreme drought conditions, areas where there is any deep soil could retain ground fire for some time, and will require several days of rain to fully extinguish the hot spots.

If you have questions or concerns regarding structure protection, please contact me at the number listed below.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Wildfire Information Officer: Caroline Charbonneau | Hours: 0800-2000
778 364-1287 | BCWS.ArrowlakeINFO@gov.bc.ca
Evacuation Information: Emergency Operation Centre | 250 352-7701 | www.rdck.ca
Road & Ferry Conditions: | 800 550-4997 | DriveBC.ca

www.bcwildfire.ca BC Forest Fire Info @BCGovFireInfo **www.firesmartbc.ca**

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August 3, 2021 (Vol 10.)

WILDFIRE UPDATE

WEATHER & FIRE BEHAVIOUR FORECASTS

The fires received three millimeters of precipitation overnight. The cooler temperature and increased humidity have improved burnable surface fuels; however, the larger fuels and deep soil remain highly combustible and would need significant rainfall to improve conditions. With the higher humidity, reduced fire activity has been observed on the fireline. Be aware that these conditions could change rapidly and fire behavior could increase suddenly.

STRUCTURE PROTECTION

Structure protection was established early on and is maintained and monitored by dedicated firefighters on properties that are threatened. We ask that you do not disturb the sprinklers and other structure protection equipment that's been installed in the community. We ask that you please, leave the equipment in place until the alert is lifted, for the benefit and protection of your properties and structures and thank the residents for their assistance. The structural protection will remain in place until the communities are no longer threatened.

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX | OBJECTIVES AND TACTICS

The overall objective of the wildfire complex is to build control lines to prevent the wildfires from approaching values at risk such as communities, properties, infrastructure, watershed and natural resources (for example: cell towers, hydro lines and major transportation corridors). Once the wildfire is contained, crews will continue to work the perimeter of the wildfire inward, removing the risk of escaping the anticipated boundaries. Control lines are built using multiple techniques, such as dozers or hand tools, to remove the burnable vegetation. In some cases, crews may use planned ignitions to remove fuel between the control lines and the fire.

Planned ignitions are essential to help contain large wildfires. They are used in situations where direct attack has limited effectiveness, or to maximize resources by reducing the area that requires suppression. Planned ignitions are monitored under the direction of a certified ignition specialist or other qualified personnel to meet pre-determined land management objectives. Opportunities for planned ignition are being explored. The exact timing of these potential burns will depend on weather and site conditions.

At various locations along the wildfire perimeter, crews and heavy equipment will continue to work together to build control lines in priority areas, largely near communities and structures. Where possible, direct attack on the wildfire will also continue.

Heavy equipment complete the control line located on the east flank of the Octopus Creek.

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

August 3, 2021 (Vol 10.)

WILDFIRE UPDATE

OCTOPUS CREEK WILDFIRE | OBJECTIVES

The construction of the north flank line has been very successful. Firefighters and heavy equipment will continue to reinforce the control line, built to protect the community of Fauquier from the advancing wildfire. A small spot fire was located on the east flank near Mista Peak. It's estimated to be 0.2 ha in size and being actioned by firefighters. Heavy equipment and crews at the east flank on Koch Creek are making good progress establishing control line in the valley. This line is intended to prevent the wildfire from spreading east into adjacent valleys. The fire is slowly creeping each day; however, the crews and equipment continue to reinforce the guards. Additional heavy equipment is planned to install new guard in priority areas once the priority lines are set.

MICHAUD CREEK WILDFIRE | OBJECTIVES

Good progress is being made by firefighters, who continue to work on the control line located to the north of the wildfire. Crews have established pumps and water hose from the lake and continue to work towards the west. The objective is to prevent the fire from growing towards the north, north west. Firefighters continue to look for and extinguish spot fires across Johnson Creek with water and hose along with helicopter assistance when visibility allows. Under the current weather conditions, firefighters anticipate they can contain the spot fires. Firefighters have now begun to establish guard line south of Michaud Creek, starting from the lake, with hand tools and pump and hose.

The majority of the wildfire has been inaccessible for rotary-wing due to smoke conditions; however, the wildfire is being monitored by satellite imagery. Planned control lines will be constructed as soon as conditions allow, with heavy equipment and planned ignition where possible.

RENATA CREEK WILDFIRE | OBJECTIVES

On the Renata Creek wildfire, crews continue to build and reinforce control lines established in priority areas. The fire continues to back down slowly toward the community, but there is no imminent threat at this time. The structure protection unit is nearly completed in Renata.

AREA RESTRICTIONS

The BC Wildfire Service has amended an **Area Restriction Order** for the vicinity of the Octopus Creek wildfire (N51800) and Michaud Creek wildfire (N51765). This area restriction reflects the continued need to protect the public in areas where ongoing fire suppression activities are taking place. Visit www.bcwildfire.ca for more information.

EVACUATION ALERTS & ORDERS

The Regional District of Central Kootenay has issued an evacuation order and alerts in the vicinity of these wildfires. The most current information is available at https://www.rdck.ca/

Please be advised that the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) does not issue evacuation orders or alerts. The BCWS works closely with Regional Districts and shares critical wildfire information. The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) will use the wildfire information, along with other critical information from local authorities and protection services, to base their decision on evacuations.

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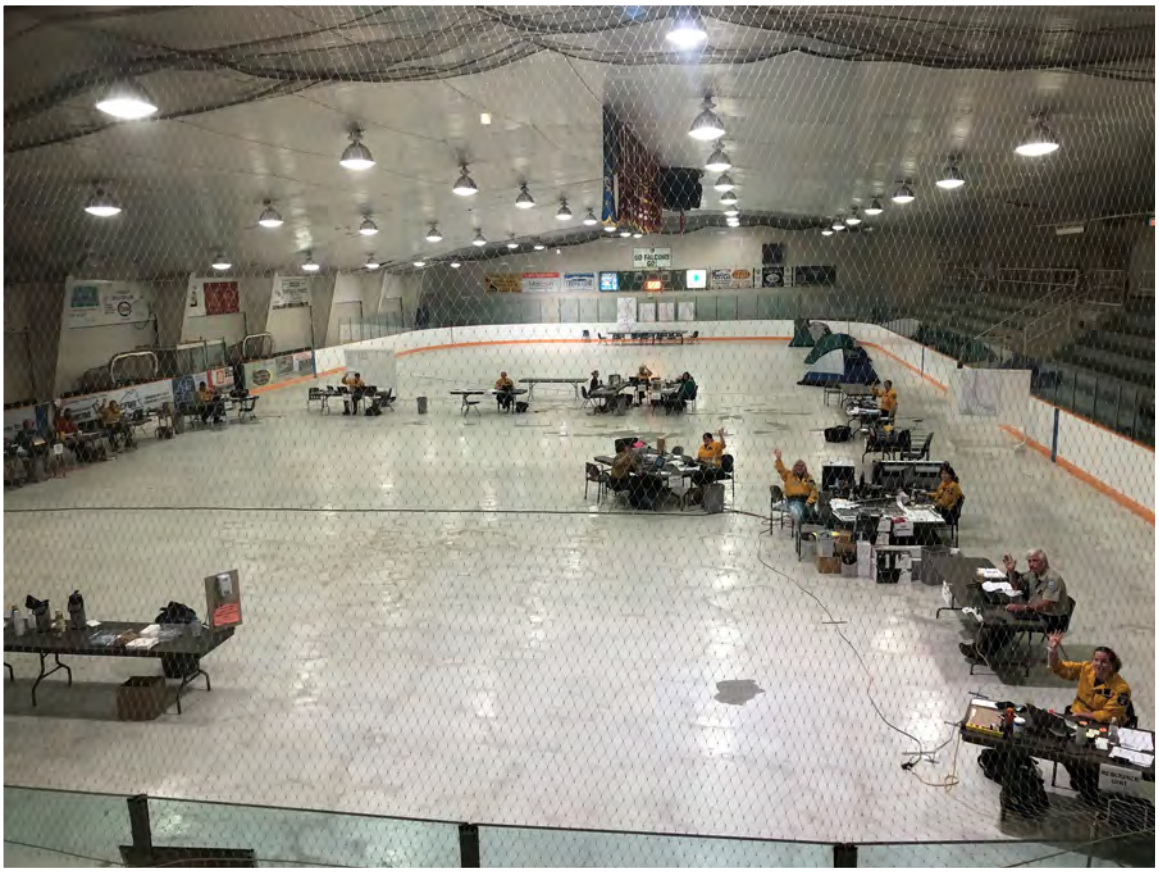
BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

August 3, 2021 (Vol 10.)

WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE PHOTOS

Additional photos are posted on the Information Board located at the Nakusp & District Sports Complex.



LEFT: Overlooking the Incident Command Post (ICP) at the Nakusp & District Community Complex.

The Alberta incident management team has been managing the Arrow Lake Wildfire Complex since July 24. A new team arrives this evening and will transition with us tomorrow.

RIGHT: Firefighters work along heavy equipment to search for and extinguish hotspots along the wildfire.

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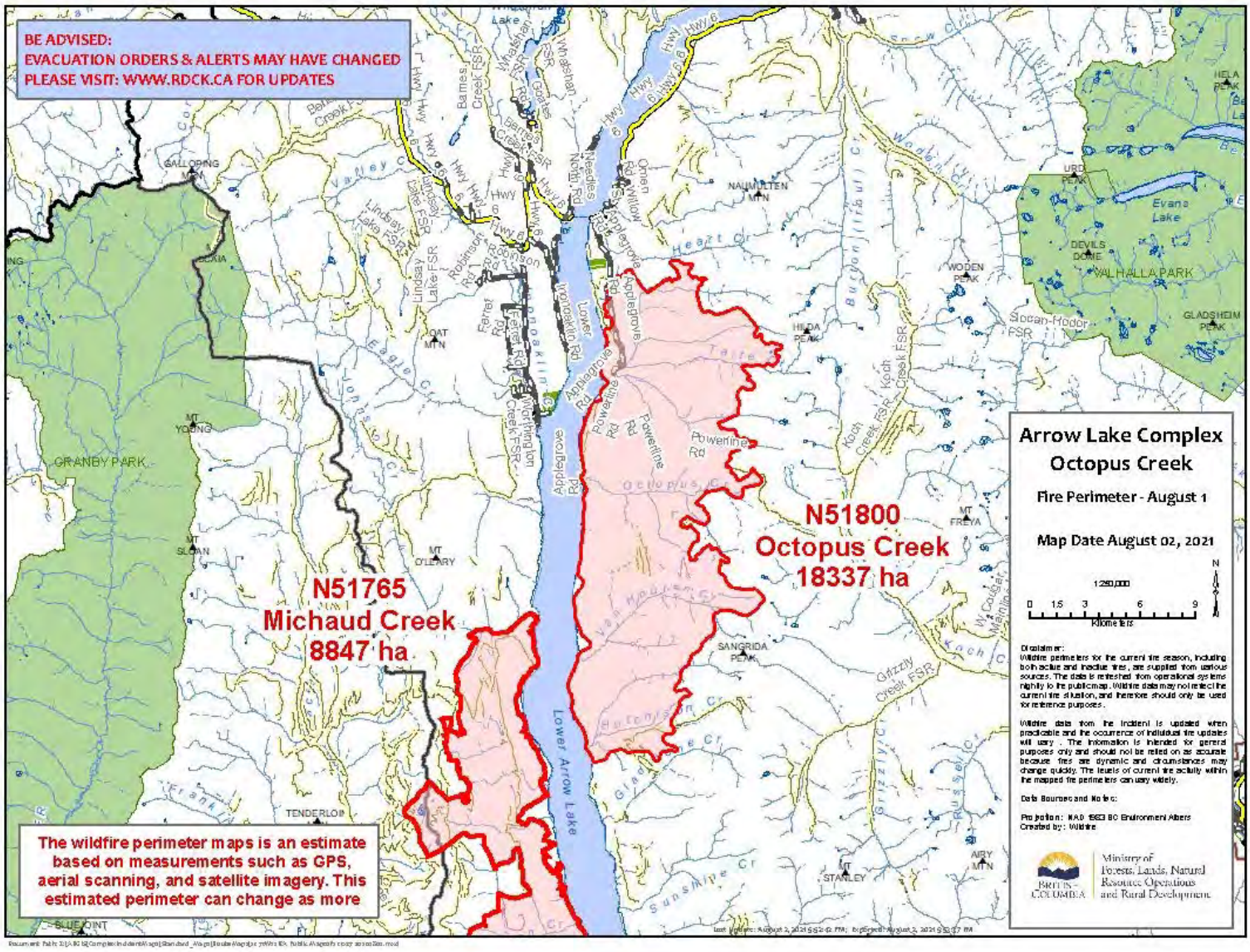
August 3, 2021 (Vol 10.)

WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX MAPS | NORTH MAP



The wildfire perimeter maps is an estimate based on measurements such as GPS, aerial scanning and satellite imagery. This estimated perimeter can change as more accurate measurements become available. Areas within the fire perimeter may not have been affected or burnt by wildfire.

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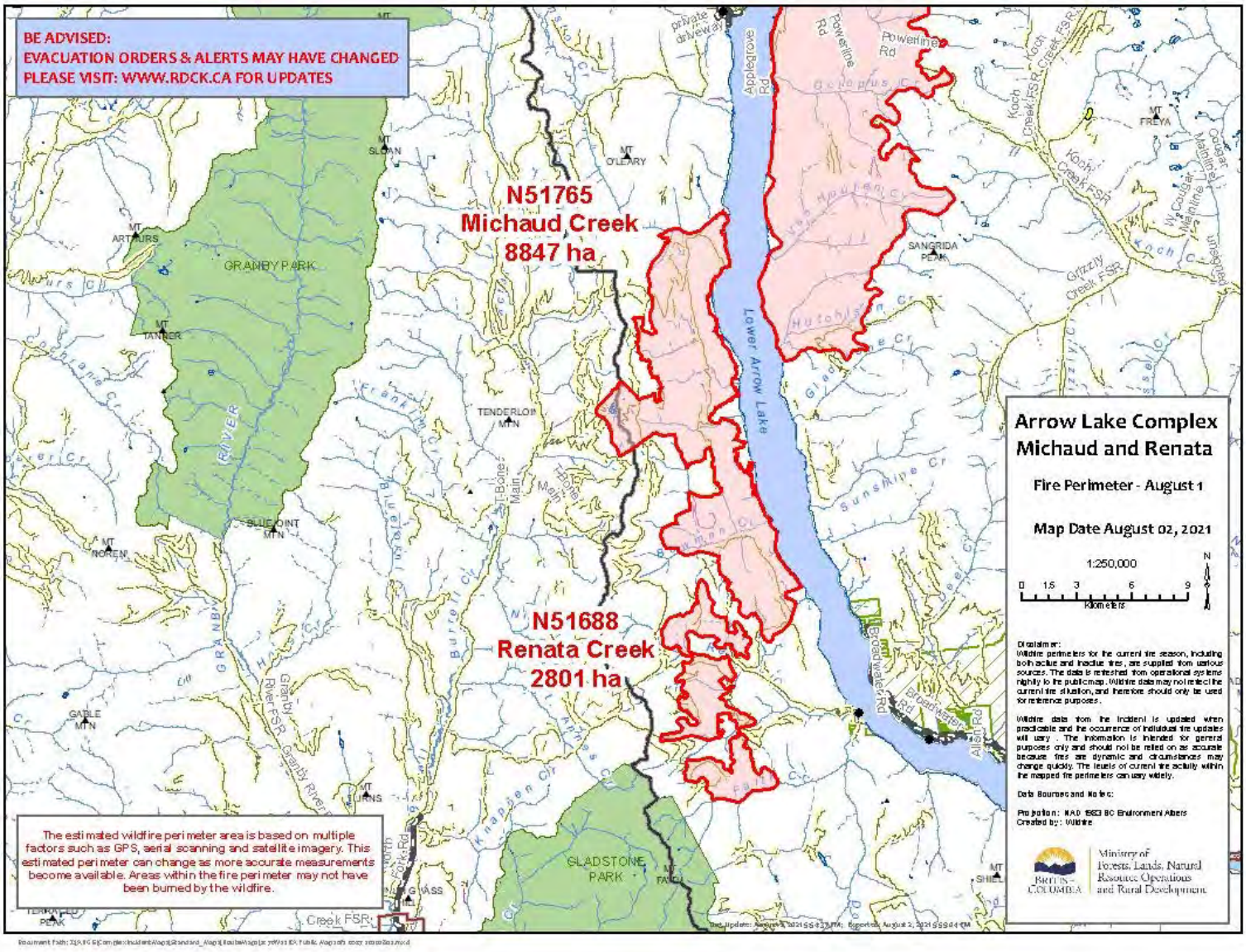
WILDFIRE UPDATE

ARROW LAKE WILDFIRE COMPLEX MAPS | SOUTH MAP



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HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- View an interactive map by clicking here 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
- **Smoke Health Concerns:** HealthLink BC | dial 8-1-1| www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp
- For info on **Community Support Services**, click here or visit https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/
- For **damage** to private property and Reserve Lands, please email **BCWSClaims2019@gov.bc.ca.**

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES			
BC Wildfire Service	**Emergency Management BC**	**Local municipalities and regional districts**	**First Nations**
- BCWS' jurisdiction covers all BC Parks, Crown and private lands, but it does not include the boundaries of local governments that have forest fire prevention bylaws and are serviced by a fire department. - BCWS speaks directly about **wildfires** (i.e. fire status, operations, etc.) and is responsible for disseminating wildfire updates to local governments, stakeholders, First Nations and the public. - BCWS does not announce Strategic Evacuation Orders or Alerts. - BCWS does announce Tactical Evacuations. - In the event of an imminent threat to public safety, BCWS can authorize an immediate **Tactical Evacuation** of the affected area.	- EMBC coordinates communication across all agencies and stakeholders to support communities. - EMBC provides advice to evacuees and support to communities regarding Emergency Operations Centres and Emergency Support Services.	- Local Municipalities and Regional Districts speak directly about **Strategic Evacuation Orders and Alerts in** their respective jurisdictions. - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts do not speak about the status of a wildfire unless the fire occurs within their jurisdiction. For example, if a wildfire starts 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.	- On IR lands, Evacuation Orders and Alerts are implemented by a Band Council Resolution or other. - A designated person(s) from the respective First Nations community will speak to Evacuation Orders and Alerts on IR lands.

ACCESSING INFORMATION		
BC Wildfire Service Online Communications	**EmergencyInfoBC EMBC Online Communications**	**PreparednessBC EMBC Online Communications**
@BCGovFireInfo	@EmergencyInfoBC	@PreparedBC
www.bcwildfire.ca	www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca	www.gov.bc.ca/preparedBC
BC Wildfire Service		PreparedBC

BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Wildfire Service

FIRE STAGES OF CONROL:

Out of Control	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.
Being Held	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.
Under Control	The fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.

WILDFIRE RANKS:

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

RANK 1 RANK 2 RANK 3 RANK 4 RANK 5 RANK 6