BC Wildfire Service

August 3, 2021

# WILDFIRE UPDATE

| White Rock Lake (K61884) | FIRE SIZE 32,500 hectares (estimate) | FIRE STATUS Out of Control |
|---|---|---|

This fire was first discovered on Sunday, July 13, 2021 and is approximately 34 kilometres northwest of Vernon.

## CONDITIONS:

Variable amounts of precipitation were received over the past 48-hours. Given the current drought conditions, the minimal precipitation provided only a short reprieve. A weak southwest flow will bring drier, warmer air back to the region today, quickly drying out forest fuels. This afternoon, winds will be southwest 10-20 km/hr easing down into the evening with temperature highs near 30 degrees.

## EVACUATION ALERTS & ORDERS:

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) has implemented an Evacuation Order for 85 properties and has issued an Evacuation Alert for an additional 651 properties. For more information, please contact: Thompson-Nicola Regional District / 250-377-7188.

The Columbia-Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) has implemented an Evacuation Order for 10 properties. On August 2, 2021, the CSRD expanded the Evacuation Alert to include the hills west of and above Yankee Flats Road, north to Spa Creek. The CSRD currently has 608 properties on Evacuation Alert. For more information, please contact: Columbia-Shuswap Regional District / 250-833-3350.

The Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) has implemented an Evacuation Order for 32 properties and has issued an Evacuation Alert for an additional 14 properties. Please contact Regional District of North Okanagan /250-550-3700 for more information.

On August 1, 2021, the Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) partially upgraded the Evacuation Alert to an Evacuation Order for areas below the Whiteman Creek drainage, south of the Mud Hole, including Parker Cove and Whiteman subdivision. The existing Evacuation Alert for the remainder of OKIB IR#1 Reserve up to Newport Beach remains still in place. Please contact Okanagan Indian Band, OKIBEOCInformationOfficer@okanagan.org / 250-241-5809 for more information.

On August 1, the Central Okanagan (RDCO) implemented an Evacuation Order for 561 properties and issued an Evacuation Alert for an additional 1,760 properties. A State of Local Emergency has been issued for the RDCO. Please contact the Regional District of Central Okanagan / 250-469-8490 (local) or 1-877-569-8490 (toll-free) for more information.

## RESOURCES:

**Firefighters** – 136

**Support Staff** – 14

**Heavy Equipment** – 42

**Danger tree assessors/fallers** – eight

**Helicopters** – 11 assigned

**Incident Management Team**

## STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

**Structure Protection Specialists**—two

**Personnel** – 110 from 35 fire departments

**Structure Protection Unit Trailers**— three (one Type 1 and two Type 2)

Seven fire department crews are remaining on site through the night to provide 24/7 structure protection continuity.

## AREA RESTRICTION ORDER:

The BC Wildfire Service has implemented an 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.

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

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## OBJECTIVES:

Better visibility over the next 48-hours will allow aerial resources to support ground crews.

On the northwest and southwest flanks, crews will continue patrolling the completed machine guard and work on extinguishing any spots that may have crossed the guard. Crews are supporting these guards with hose lay and a water delivery system. Heavy equipment is also working to protect this guard and will use direct attack on the fire where possible from Pratt Road to Monte-Camp Road.

Northeast of the fire perimeter, crews and heavy equipment are working to secure the guard along Adelphi Road towards Wood Lake and will also be working towards the east building guard north of the fire perimeter. Heavy machinery will be working on building a contingency guard north of the fire.

Crews along the southern flank of the fire will be working along Beautiful Road to mop up the excursion south of the Salmon River Forest Service Road, east of Salmon Lake. Heavy machinery will be working along Mowing Machine Forest Service Road to reinforce the road.

Minimal precipitation provided a short reprieve in fire activity. Rank 2 and Rank 3 fire behaviour was observed into the afternoon during the peak heat of the day. This photo shows fire activity on the south flank, west of Little Bouleau Lake. For more information on Fire Ranks, please visit www.bcwildfire.ca.

## STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

The structure protection branch consists of two Structure Protection Specialists, 110 structure protection personnel from 35 different fire departments. Seven Fire Department crews are remaining on site overnight and there will be 24-hour coverage for Structure Protection, one Type 1 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailer and two Type 2 SPU trailers.

Structural protection personnel have completed a full assessment from Monte Lake towards the Falkland Corridor via Highway 97, as well as along West Side Road. Personnel are prepared to deploy structure protection apparatuses, as required, to Westwold, Falkland, Cedar Hills, Pinaus Lake, and Okanagan Indian Band IR#1. The structure protection crews will also be patrolling Douglas Lake Road to action any spot fire, as well as maintaining the structure protection systems in place.

## ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

**North Okanagan Complex Information Section**

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

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

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## FIRE CAMP:

The BC Wildfire Service is setting up a fire camp at the Kin Race Track in Vernon, B.C. Once the fire camp is fully set up, it will house approximately 200 firefighters and support staff from the White Rock Lake wildfire. The fire camp is being strategically set up in Vernon in order to resource additional incidents in the North Okanagan, as required.

The BC Wildfire Service sets camps up where they are needed to house and feed firefighting personnel and support staff through the duration of an incident. The need for a fire camp can last anywhere from two weeks to several months. The fire camp provides sleeping trailers, kitchen facilities, wash cars, warehouses, and incident management offices.

The BC Wildfire Service would like to thank the public for their on-going support during this challenging and busy fire season. Please respect our firefighters who are calling the Vernon fire camp their home, and give them privacy while they get their much needed rest.

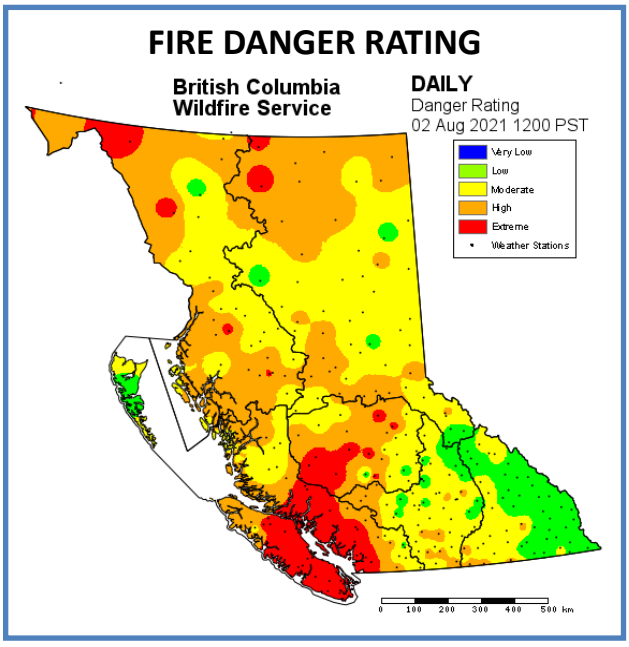
## DONATIONS:

The BC Wildfire Service is aware of several requests for donations of items to firefighters in the Okanagan area. Though the BC Wildfire Service appreciates the sentiment behind these offers, there is no need for additional supplies. Anyone attempting to drop off donations to the North Okanagan Complex fire camp, in Vernon, will be turned away for safety and security reasons. Fire camps are active work sites and access is limited to BC Wildfire Service personnel and approved visitors only.

Unfortunately, though the intentions behind these actions are positive, they ultimately impact personnel time which is better spent managing the current wildfire situation.

We appreciate your understanding and support.

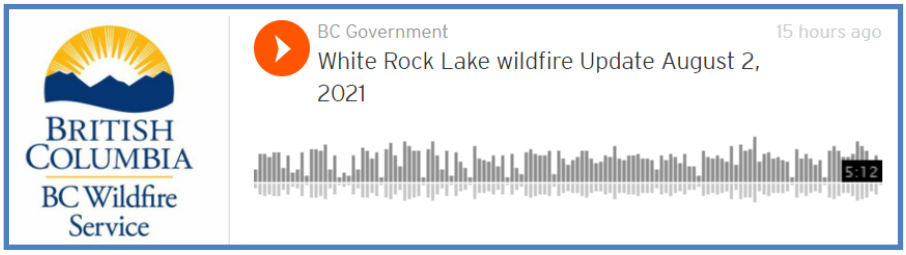
If you are looking for a way to actively support firefighting efforts in British Columbia, please consider donating to the Red Cross' British Columbia Fires Appeal. Alternatively, Emergency Management BC is currently coordinating requests for help and offers of assistance. They can be reached at donations@gov.bc.ca.




**SOUNDCLOUD UPDATE:**

Scott Rennick, Incident Commander provides an update for the White Rock Lake Wildfire on August 2, 2021

https://soundcloud.com/bcgov/white-rock-lake-wildfire-update-august-2-2021

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