BC Wildfire Service

August 9, 2021—1400

WILDFIRE UPDATE

White Rock Lake (K61884)	FIRE SIZE 55,700 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:

With the current weather conditions, the fire has mostly stalled with no significant growth in size or direction overnight. There continues to be moderate growth in active areas on the north, northeast, and southeast flanks. Yesterday, there was mostly rank 1 and 2 fire behaviour observed throughout most of the fire. In some areas on the southeast and north east flank there was more vigorous surface fire with increased rate of spread (rank 3).

Today, a high of 24c and minimum relative humidity (RH) of 37% is forecast. Winds SW 5-10 km/h except SE 5-10 km/h along Okanagan Lake.

The ridge of high pressure builds steadily through the week supporting sunny skies, rising temperatures and dropping RH. Gusty NW winds develop Tuesday and increase Wednesday. Temperatures climb into the 30's by Wednesday and approach mid 30's by Friday. Crossover conditions (temperature is 30C or above, the relative humidity is 30% or less and the wind speed is 30km/h or stronger) develop by midday with RH dipping into the low 20's or even teens.

STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

The structure protection branch consists 138 structure protection personnel from various fire departments. Twenty personnel are remaining on site overnight tonight to ensure 24-hour coverage for Structure Protection. Seven pieces of heavy equipment, two Type 1 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailers, four Type 2 SPU trailer, 20 engines, five mass-water delivery systems, and 14 water tenders are also assigned to the structure protection branch.

Structure protection personnel are prepared to defend Westwold, Falkland, Cedar Hills, Pinaus Lake, and communities along Westside Road, including Okanagan Indian Band IR#1. Structure protection personnel worked through the night and continue today with a roving patrol along Westside Road, prepared to defend threatened neighbourhoods. A specialized off-road fire engine is being deployed to the Westside Road area to conduct structure protection on the backside of properties along the east flank of the fire.

RESOURCES:

Wildland Firefighters – 163 (22 who remained on-site overnight)

Heavy Equipment – 53

Danger tree assessors/fallers – five

Helicopters – 16 assigned

Incident Management Team

STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

Personnel – 138

Structure Protection Unit Trailers— six (two Type 1 and four Type 2)

Equipment – seven pieces of heavy equipment, 20 engines, 14 water tenders, and five mass-water delivery systems. Twenty fire department personnel 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.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

White Rock Lake Information Section

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

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

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OBJECTIVES:

There is currently a contingency machine guard being built along the Duck Range Rd, south of Pritchard. There are no ignitions being planned for any part of this guard, at this time. It is a contingency machine guard being put in place should the fire move in this direction. There are no large scale planned ignitions set for ANY part of the fire.

On the northwest flank, crews and heavy equipment will work on securing the excursion over in the Foley Road area working back towards the Monte-Pratt. Direct attack methods will be used along the Foley Road area where safe to do so to limit spread. Mop-up is occurring on the west side of Douglas Lake Rd and along Grange FSR towards Rock Bluff. Crews are being assisted by helicopter support in this area as they work to secure control lines.

Crews on the northern flank of the fire will work on constructing guard along the west and east perimeter of the fire north above Highway 97. Crews will also work on establishing containment along Grange FSR to Adelphi Road on the eastern side of the northern finger of the fire perimeter to protect this flank from growing towards Pinaus Lake. Two unit crews are working on either side of the northern tip of the fire to prevent further spread northeast towards Paxton Valley and further. A unit crew is working in the Ingram Road excursion to prevent further spread of the excursion. Machine guard is being built from Biancotto Lake south to existing hand guard. Construction on the Martin FSR contingency line will be completed around August 11.

Where safe to do so, air tankers have been supporting suppression efforts on the White Rock Lake wildfire. Air tankers drop fire retardant parallel to active fire to slow the spread.

Crews along the southern flank of the fire will work to continue to hold containment along Beautiful Road. If on-site conditions are favourable, small-scale ignition operations will support the containment line being built. A ground-based retardant unit will support crews along guard. Danger Tree Assessors/Fallers will ensure clear access along roadways. Heavy machinery will continue to work along Mowing Machine Forest Service Road to reinforce the road. Heavy machinery will be working on the construction of a control line from Beautiful Road heading east. This control line with serve as a contingency line south of the fire perimeter and will be established using a combination of Forest Service Roads, lakes, and pre-existing machine guards. Personnel will also be patrolling the fire perimeter to assess whether there have been any areas where the fire has crossed containment lines.

On the east flank, crews and structure protection personnel are working in the Westside Rd area where the fire is close to properties. Where conditions are suitable, crews are continuing along the fire perimeter and direct attacking using water and hand ignitions to tie in lines and secure the perimeter. Line locators are working on a secondary control line from Salmon River FSR to Okanagan Lake.

The helicopter fleet includes a Sikorsky 64 SkyCrane helicopter, which has a 2,650-gallon tank that is fillable in less than one-minute. There are also four Kamov heavy helicopters in the fleet. Additional air support is available and will be utilized as required, should conditions allow.

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EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

As of 12:00 p.m., August 9, 2021, the following government authorities have implemented Evacuation Alerts and Orders. Please contact the applicable local authority for more details on the Evacuation Alerts and Orders.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District has Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Alerts in place.
Thompson-Nicola Regional District / 250-377-7188

The Columbia-Shuswap Regional District has Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Alerts in place.
Columbia-Shuswap Regional District / 250-833-3350

The Regional District of North Okanagan has Evacuation Orders and Alerts in place.
Regional District of North Okanagan /250-550-3700

The Okanagan Indian Band has Evacuation Orders in place for IR #1.
Okanagan Indian Band/ OKIBEOCInformationOfficer@okanagan.org/ 250-241-5809

The Regional District of Central Okanagan has Evacuation Orders and Alerts in place.
Regional District of Central Okanagan / 250-469-8490 (local) or 1-877-569-8490 (toll-free)

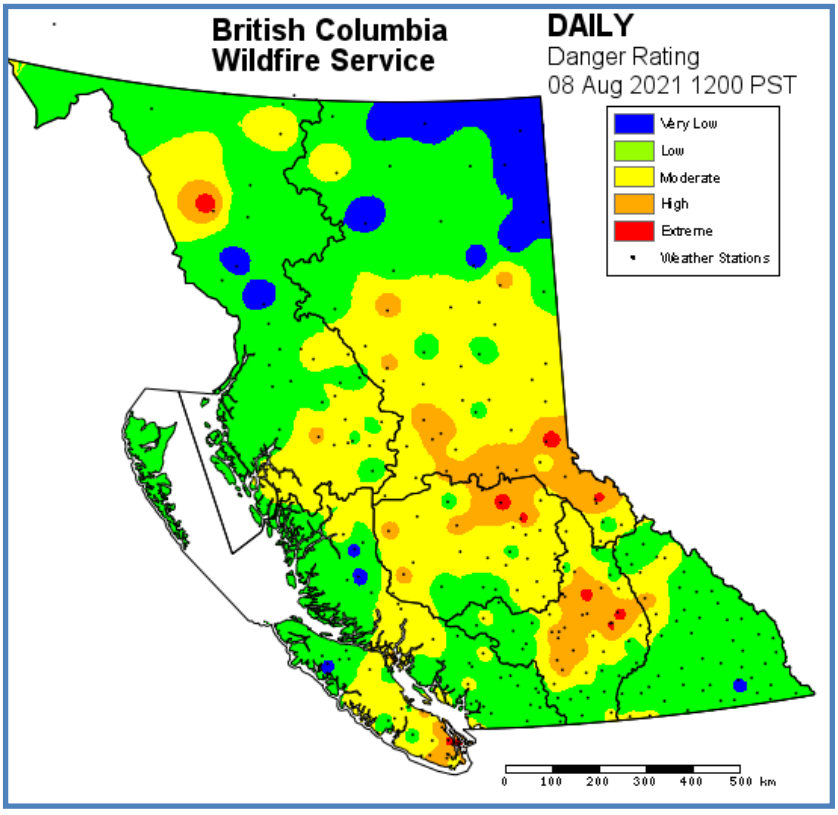
The City of Armstrong and the Township of Spallumcheen has an Evacuation Alert in place.
The City of Armstrong / The Township of Spallumcheen

The City of Kamloops has an Evacuation Alert in place.
The City of Kamloops

The Splatsín First Nation has an Evacuation Alert in place.
Splatsín First Nation

The Village of Chase has an Evacuation Alert in place.
The Village of Chase

The City of Vernon has an Evacuation Alert in place.
The City of Vernon



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