BC Wildfire Service

INCIDENT UPDATE

Old Tom Creek (K52670)

This information is current as of:	September 1, 2018
Incident Commander (IC)	Glen Burgess
Contact information	Information Officer: Steve Kada 250-819-8564 Email: PlacerComIN@gov.bc.ca
Fire camp	Keremeos
Incident overview	This fire was discovered on August 15, since then ground crews, helicopters, air tankers and heavy equipment have been assigned to this fire. The current size of the fire is estimated at 1,025 has. This wildfire is classified as Being Held. Community members can still expect to see smoke within the perimeter over the coming weeks. This is common with large wildfires and will continue until the region receives significant rainfall or snowfall. If smoke is seen coming from well within a fire's perimeter and the area is surrounded by black, burned material, this is typically not a concern
Weather forecast	Occasional cloudy periods. High temperature 13 C and low RH near 37%. Winds becoming W-NW 15-25 km/h by afternoon. Nocturnal inversion to 1100 metres with breakdown temperature of 14 C **Tonight:** Overnight low near 2 C and RH recovery to near 70%. Winds W 15-25 km/h. **Outlook:** The flow turns more to the west on Sunday and temperatures will cool a degree or two with stronger southwest winds as the next upper trough approaches the region late in the day. The upper trough crosses the region overnight and light showers may occur. Temperatures will remain on the cooler side. Monday, in a renewed northwest flow, temperatures will stay in the lower double digits. Winds will become light northwest. Temperatures will climb one or two degrees on Tuesday with light south to southeast winds.
Fire behavior prediction	Fuels have had a good chance to start drying out after some windy afternoons. Moderate rates of spread are possible in the C-3 and C-7 fuels today, with fast rates of spread for grass areas that carry some decent fuel loads. Passive crowning in C-3 and vigorous surface fires may eventuate at the peak of the day.
Challenges	Steep slopes continue to be challenging for all crews working this incident. Patchy burn areas within the fire are making mop up slow. Due to high winds there was a small flare up on the west flank in Old Tom Creek but with the assistance of helicopter bucket support the excursion was contained.
Yesterday's achievements	Mop up completed to a minimum of 50ft along a very quiet south flank yesterday. Along the east flank crews completed 50% 25ft mop up. Crews conducted a small scale hand ignition in a small section of green timber between main fire and guard. The southeast corner remains unguarded, but crews continue to work in the steep challenging terrain building guard. Crews continue to patrol the north flank.
Today's objectives	Complete 25ft mop up between Helipad 3 and 5. Crews continue to mop up southeast drainage utilizing bucket support and ground crews. Continue suppression efforts on excursion west of Old Tom Creek Danger tree assessment and falling is ongoing. Crews will continue to patrol north flank and extinguish any hot spots within 100ft of perimeter. A rappel crew will be deployed today to build a helipad which will provide ground crews access to additional areas of the fire. An assessment will be conducted of any fire growth due to strong overnight winds.

Definitions: Stages of Control

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) that 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:	Indicates that the fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.
Out:	Indicates that the fire has been extinguished.

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