



White Rock Lake

K61884

FIRE SIZE

83, 112 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: Max. temperatures of 16, min. relative humidity of 40 per cent, light NW winds.

WEATHER OUTLOOK: An upper ridge is expected to move in tonight, warming temperatures. Thursday temperatures will be in the low to mid-twenties with light and variable winds. Similar conditions are expected Friday.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE:

The fire received 5 mm of rain yesterday which has decreased fire behaviour significantly. Crews continue to increase containment along all flanks of the fire. Hot spots identified by infrared drone scans are being targeted. 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 on the White Rock Lake wildfire (K61884) was 975 hectares in total size. The burn plan objectives were to mimic natural wildfire with up to 30% tree mortality and understory woody debris consumption. The Irish Creek area has over 40 years of woody debris buildup. Areas that had significant fuel build up, combined with very steep slopes, burned with more intensity. This resulted in a patch-work burn with pockets of more intense fire behaviour that is seen when natural wildfire moves through a forest.

Ground crews used hand ignitions to bring the fire down to six kilometres of guard along the northeast perimeter. Out of the 975 hectares, 14 hectares of fire burned across containment lines in a 920 metre stretch along the guard when decked logs ignited by more intense fire behaviour. A unit crew managed this excursion with full containment achieved the next morning on Aug. 31.

RESOURCES:

Wildland Firefighters – 329

Heavy Equipment – 35

Danger tree assessors/fallers – 9

Helicopters – 6 assigned

Incident Management Team



White Rock Lake planned ignitions on August 30, 2021.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

White Rock Lake Information Section

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



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The Irish Creek planned ignition on Aug. 31, 2021

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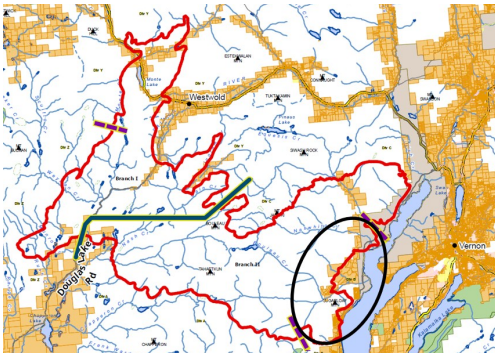


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OBJECTIVES:

Division Bravo (east flank): 66 wildland firefighters, 7 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.

Division Charlie (northeast flank): 75 wildland firefighters, 2 pieces of heavy equipment, aerial support



Crews may complete a planned ignition in the Ewer Creek area dependent on conditions, this is unlikely within the next week and further communication will precede any ignition. Crews are working on completing containment and mop of 14 hectare excursion on Irish Creek North Flank. Work continues on mop up and patrol of the completed ignition line, making a 50 foot blackline.

Structure Protection Branch:

The structure protection branch consists of 2 structure protection personnel from various fire departments. Two Type 1 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailers, six Type 2 SPU trailer, two engines, and one water tender are also assigned to the structure protection branch.

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:

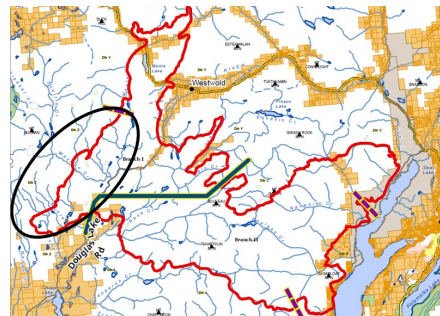
Division Yankee (north flank): 87 wildland firefighters, 3 pieces of heavy equipment, aerial support

An infrared drone scan was completed along this flank to help crews action hotspots within 50 feet of the fire perimeter. Crews today are actioning hot spots north of Highway 97.



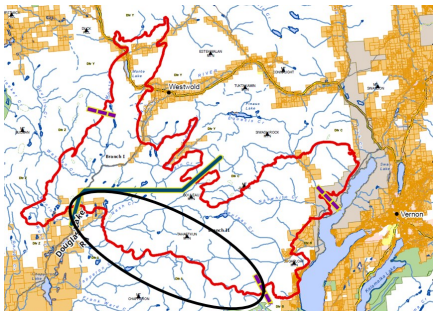
Division Zulu (west flank): 94 firefighters, 6 pieces of heavy equipment, aerial resources

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, as well as from Highway 97B to Torch Road. The Canadian Armed Forces are working in the west flank conducting mop up and patrol.



Division Alpha (south flank): aerial resources

Aerial resources continue to monitor this flank of the fire.



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 / 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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