BC Wildfire Service

INCIDENT UPDATE

Old Tom Creek (K52670)

This information is current as of:	September 5, 2018
Incident Commander (IC)	Glen Burgess
Contact information	Information Officer: Noelle Kekula 250-319-4815 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 1,130ha. 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	**Today:** Mainly sunny. High temperature 19 C and low RH near 19%. Winds NE 5-15 km/h gradually becoming E 10-20 km/h by late afternoon. Light winds may give greater variability in direction, and winds may also be influenced by day time heating / cooling. Nocturnal inversion to 1600 metres with a breakdown temperature of 19 C. **Tonight:** Overnight low near 8 C and RH recovery to near 50%. Winds becoming SW 5-15 km/h after 21:00. **Outlook:** The ridge remains the predominant feature Thursday and Friday, but an upper trough with an embedded low brings showers Friday night and through Saturday as it crosses southern BC. Temperatures will reach to the low twenties on Thursday, cooling to the teens on Friday. Winds will be light southwest on Thursday, becoming light to moderate southwest on Friday, and as the low crosses the region, stronger and gustier on Saturday.
Fire behavior prediction	This afternoon temperatures and RH have potential to cross over. There is likely to be increased ignition potential and fast rates of spread under the dry conditions. Surface fires are likely to be very vigorous at the peak of the day, with torching and intermittent crowning common. Poor to moderate overnight RH recovery (50%) is forecast for Tuesday night. Fire behaviour may pick up in the fine fuels earlier in the morning than we have seen the previous few mornings
Challenges	Steep slopes are creating challenging terrain for crews. West flank has seen growth west of Old Tom Creek.
Yesterday's achievements	Crews made progress on building the guard on the top slope of Tom Creek. Ground crews made progress on the northeast end containment line which will now potentially allow for mop up and patrol status.
Today's objectives	Heavy equipment and ground crews will continue building the guard on the top slope of Tom Creek. Crews are also aiming to complete mop up east of Old Tom Creek, tying in with the cliff above Hwy 3. Danger tree assessments and falling is ongoing. Crews will continue to patrol other flanks and extinguish hot spots within 100 ft of the perimeter.

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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