



FIRE NAME:

Doctor Creek (N21257)

FIRE SIZE:

7,600 hectares (estimated)

FIRE STATUS:

Out of Control

RESOURCES:

- 165 personnel including an incident management team; 13 pieces of heavy equipment; and eight helicopters

FORECAST:

Today (Sept. 6, 2020), temperatures are slightly cooler with increased relative humidity and northwesterly winds. As a result of an approaching cold front, northwesterly winds are forecast to pick up by this afternoon and sustain into Monday. With wind gusts above 60 kilometres per hour in wind-exposed areas, like valley-gaps and ridge-lines, crews are anticipating an increase in fire activity.

UPDATES:

In preparation for an increase in fire activity, personnel are working to secure control lines. Heavy equipment is helping to secure control lines in the southeast and working on contingency lines on the south and east flanks. Helicopters continue to be utilized for water and fire retardant delivery to help secure pre-determined boundaries. On the north flank, crews continue to extinguish hot spots and deliver water to the fire's edge.

On September 4, 2020, aerial ignitions successfully brought the fire's edge down to more accessible terrain. This [time-lapse video](#) capture the ignitions as they progressed through the afternoon. The column of smoke was highly visible in surrounding communities. We would like to thank Columbia Valley residents, visitors and partner agencies for their ongoing support during the response.



Planned ignitions on the southeastern section of the fire (Sept. 4, 2020).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Information Officer: Hannah Swift | Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

778-694-8325 | BCWS.N21257INFO@gov.bc.ca



bcwildfire.ca



firesmartbc.ca



[BC Wildfire Service](#)



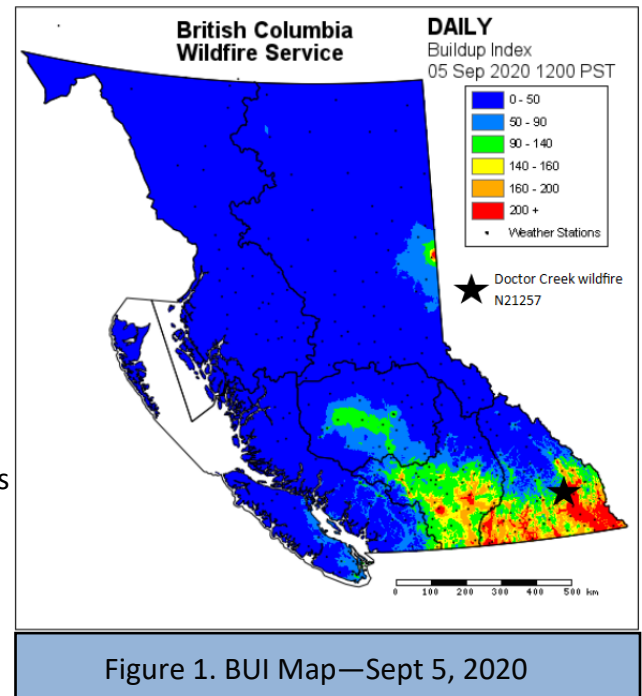
[BCGovFireInfo](#)



WHAT IS AFFECTING FIRE BEHAVIOUR?

BUILDUP INDEX

A component of the [Fire Weather Index \(FWI\) System](#), the Buildup Index (BUI) is a numeric rating of the total amount of fuel readily available for combustion on the landscape. The BUI helps to determine how volatile forest fuels are, how intensely and deeply they will burn and how difficult it might be to suppress a fire in a given fuel type. A BUI value greater than 140 in southern B.C. indicates that fuels are at or near a dry enough condition to sustain a persistent, deep-burning wildfire. As the BUI numeric rating increases, fire behaviour becomes increasingly more volatile and, as a result, makes it increasingly more difficult for crews to successfully contain a wildfire. As shown in figure 1, the BUI value on the Doctor Creek wildfire is between 180-220, indicating that the fire is burning deep in the ground and challenging direct attack capabilities.



TERRAIN

The Doctor Creek wildfire is burning in an area with a variation of landscape features including valleys, canyons, steep slopes, ridges and rocky outcrops. These topographical features align with winds in such a way that causes it to accelerate as it travels through the valley. As a result, wind speeds on site are regularly higher than forecasted. This has posed a challenge on the southeastern flank where steep slopes and rocky outcrops are heavily exposed.

WEATHER

Temperatures on-site have consistently been above seasonal average and sustained local wind events have resulted in tinder-dry forest fuels and low-humidity. These dry conditions are reflected in how quickly the Doctor Creek wildfire has spread.

EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

For information regarding evacuation alerts and orders, please visit the [Regional District of East Kootenay](#) website.

AREA RESTRICTION ORDER:

An area restriction remains in effect for the Doctor Creek wildfire to support response efforts and protect the safety of the public and firefighting personnel. Please review the [area restriction order map](#), before visiting the area. For more information, visit bcwildfire.ca > [Changes made to the Doctor Creek Area Restriction](#)

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