



WILDFIRE UPDATE

FRASER COMPLEX

Shovel Lake Wildfire (R11498)

Shovel Lake (R11498), part of the Babine Complex, Northwest Fire Centre

Location: 6.7 km north of Endako

Status: 68,375 hectares estimated (due to better mapping visibility yesterday—includes recent growth over last few days)

Cause: under investigation

Resources: 158 firefighters, 48 pieces of heavy equipment, 8 helicopters

Objectives: Yesterday, crews worked to establish guard along the PNG pipeline east from Stern Lake. Equipment worked to widen this guard north of the pipeline. This will act as a fuel free area to help stop the fire growth south towards the north shore of Fraser Lake. Air tankers and skimmers were assisting the equipment in establishing this guard. Crews also conducted hand ignitions to remove fuel between guards and the fire inside the guard. The Shovel Lake fire today did not exhibit any significant growth yesterday, though around the entire perimeter there was some small growth, however, winds were favorable. Structural protection is being conducted in the community of Fort St. James, Nadleh Whut'en, and the north shore of Fraser Lake. On the southeast flank the fire has burned down to the PNG pipeline to the north of Fraser Lake in some places, but crews are in place to support containment on these. To the east the fire is near Ormond Lake. Due to the smoke it is hard to tell exactly where the fire perimeter is.

Evacuations: An Evacuation Order and Alert remains in effect for this wildfire by the Bulkley Nechako Regional District, with the alert being expanded last night. For more information visit: <https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/> BC Wildfire Service continues to implement an Area Order Restriction to protect public safety due to the wildfire's rate of spread and to avoid interference with fire suppression efforts. The area restriction will remain in place until noon on Sept. 15, 2018, or until the order is rescinded. The area restriction order applies to all Crown land outlined on the map (including recreational campgrounds) that is available online at: <http://ow.ly/X8Mr30lbPR9>

Island Lake Wildfire (R11921)

Location: Adjacent to Island Lake

Status: 14,864 hectares in size estimated

Cause: Under investigation

Resources: 15 firefighters and 26 pieces of heavy equipment

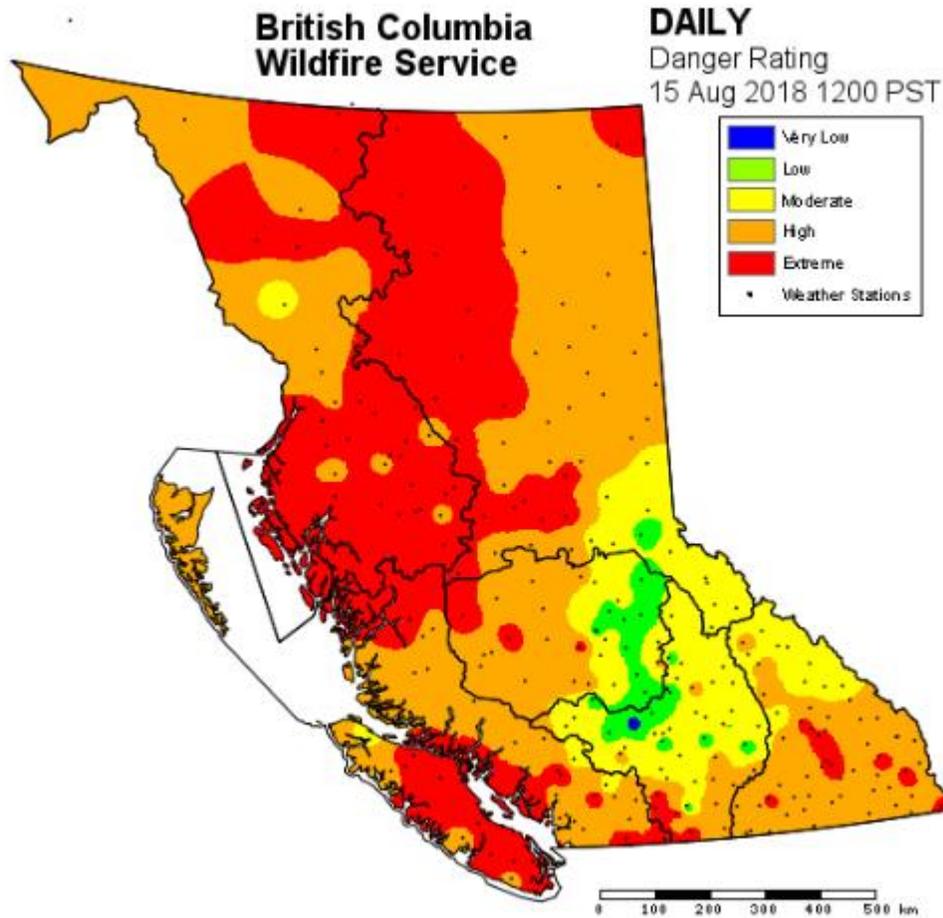
Objectives: The fire is moving down towards the south shore of Francois Lake near the eastern side of the lake. Crews are working to in this area of increased activity. Equipment is building guard. The fire is holding on the east side, however, it has moved around the south side of Anzus Lake. Crews will be assessing this growth tomorrow. Crews are continuing guard construction in the east and 200 Road. Crews are monitoring values for structural protection.

Evacuations: The Bulkley Nechako Regional District has implemented an Evacuation Order and Alert for this wildfire. For more information visit: <https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/>

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Claire Allen | Claire.Allen@gov.bc.ca | 250-319-2205

Forrest Tower | Forrest.Tower@gov.bc.ca | 250-614-6743



Fire Weather Summary

Thursday –Sunny with late afternoon and evening cloudy periods, winds becoming SW-NW 8-15 km/h in the morning than later afternoon W-NW 20km/h gusts 30 and NW 20km/h through late evening and easing early to mid overnight. High temperatures 25°C and minimum RH 15-20%.

Friday – Dry NW flow aloft. Sunny day with winds SW-W 25km/h with some gusts to 35 shifting to lighter NW in the afternoon. High temperatures 22°C and humidity in the upper 20’ to 30.

Outlook –The mainly sunny skies continue. Winds NW 20km/h with gusts up to 30 with high temperatures near 20 and minimum RH in the low 30’s.

Please be advised that we have received an Extreme Fire Behaviour Warning regarding wind that will occur over the next 24 hours. We expect that fire behaviour will become more active. Thursday winds W-NW 10-15 km/h and stronger becoming a bit gusty later afternoon and having a more southerly direction.

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