



WILDFIRE UPDATE

FRASER COMPLEX EVENING UPDATE

Shovel Lake Wildfire (R11498)

Location: approx. 6km north of the community of Fraser Lake

Status: 86,850 hectares (mapped—infrared scan)

Cause: under investigation

Resources: 236 firefighters, 46 pieces of heavy equipment, 8 helicopters (shared in the complex)

Status: The Shovel Lake wildfire experienced unpredicted aggressive fire behaviour on the north flank tonight. Heavy wind and fuels contributed to aggressive fire behaviour near the Sutherland River Protected Area. In the northeast corner, a finger of fire moved 8 km through slash, and is in larger containment lines at this point. Crews are working late on the line in an effort to suppress fire activity on the northeastern flank. The thick smoke has reduced visibility to below the legal flying limit for several days and without air support such as helicopters, skimmers, and air tankers crews were challenged today. Favourable winds tomorrow should allow air operations to occur in the morning which will allow crews to be supported from the air.

Equipment and crews are working near McKnab Lake creating machine guard to tie into existing guard on the east side near Marie Lake. Thick smoke continues to challenge the use of aircraft (including helicopters, airtankers, and water skimmers) due to visibility concerns. Helicopters for this incident and the Island Lake fire have been placed in Fort St. James and Burns Lake to try and take advantage of visibility windows.

On the east flank, crews are mitigating the risk to the community of Fort St James and Highway 27. Structural protection crews, including engines, water tenders trucks and personnel will remain present in the area. The fire has moved closer to Fort St. James on the east side, and heavy equipment continues to build guard starting at the Sutherland FSR and links to Dog Creek Trail, with the containment line on the southern perimeter running north of the PNG pipeline and Stella Rd. This continuous guard veers northward to wrap up the eastern side of the fire, crossing Barlow FSR and extending northward utilizing the Bud Rd where continued work will occur over the next few days up towards Sowchea Creek and McNab Lake to connect onto the north side of the fire with the plan being to protect properties, timber values, and minimize environmental impact.

On the south of the fire, ground crews are working to mop up sections of the fire on the southern perimeter where the successful burn-off occurred by Stern Lake several days ago, and will continue to work along the southern flank of the fire along the PNG pipeline path to ensure properties on north Fraser Lake are secure.

On the west side of the fire, crews continue to see active fire in areas of standing and down dead timber, and will work tomorrow to increase containment in the Hannay and Tatalpin Lake areas and shift the objective to monitoring and mop-up.

Evacuations: An Evacuation Order and Alert remains in effect for this wildfire issued by the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District. A Partial Rescinded Evacuation Order and Revised Alert Area was issued on August 21 at 1100. [For more information click here.](#)

BC Wildfire Service continues to implement an Area Order Restriction to protect public safety 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>

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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WILDFIRE UPDATE

FRASER COMPLEX EVENING UPDATE

Island Lake Wildfire (R11921)

Location: Adjacent to Island Lake

Status: 17,291 hectares (mapped—infrared scan)

Cause: Under investigation

Resources: 65 firefighters, 24 pieces of heavy equipment, 9 helicopters (shared in the complex)

Objectives: Air support has been grounded for the most part of the last three days. There was a 120 hectare excursion to the south of Anzus Lake running southeast towards Borel Lake four days ago. Equipment has gone ahead of this excursion and has created guard to stop further growth. Crews continue to monitor for and extinguish any spot fires. Ground crews and heavy equipment are continuing to work off the 238 Road to build a fuel free containment line. Structural firefighters are monitoring for values in need of structural protection in the area and on the lakeshore.

BC Hydro crews are operating in the Dahlgren Road area with mulchers and chippers in order to clean up roads in these areas. Machinery has been moved to Black Point Road for final guard construction that should be completed within the next day.

Evacuations: An Evacuation Order and Alert remains in effect for this wildfire issued by the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District. A Partial Rescinded Evacuation Order and Revised Alert Area was issued on August 21 at 1100. [For more information click here.](#)

Cheslatta Wildfire (R11683)

Location: North of Cheslatta Lake

Status: 6,862 hectares (estimated)

Cause: under investigation

Resources: 6 firefighters, 12 pieces of heavy equipment, 8 helicopters (shared in the complex)

Status: The Fraser Complex took over the Cheslatta Lake fire today. The eastern flank has guard at the 48 Road pushed in from the east. Guard is being pushed from Spur Road to Holy Lake. Thick smoke challenges the use of aircraft (including helicopters, air tankers, and water skimmers) due to visibility concerns. Objectives for further containment will be made tomorrow.

Fire Weather Summary

Outlook Wednesday and Thursday – Wednesday, the ridge made a slow collapse over the region as an upper trough moved onto the coast. The upper trough is expected to move through on Thursday, however is forecast to be a dry feature (no precipitation expected). Temps will fall into the mid to low 20's and humidity values will trend upward closer to the 30% mark. Winds are going to be the bigger issue, increasing to general SW's in the 20 gusting to 40 km/h range, with locally higher possible. These winds are expected to persist into Thursday, maintaining a W to SW flow.

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