

Slocan Lake Complex Wildfire Update

August 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Increased fire behaviour and candling will be observed again today, especially when the smoke clears. Both the Komonko Creek (N51210) and Ponderosa FSR (N51069) wildfires will continue to back down steep slopes and active flame will be visible. Where the fire has reached the guard, crews continue to work to limit spread using small-scale ignitions. This is a standard firefighting tactic to limit the amount of fuel that the fire has available to burn uncontrolled. With winds from the north, smoke may settle in the valley. Although smoke aids in reducing fire behaviour, it also limits our ability to use aircraft. When skies are clear, helicopters have been bucketing to limit fire intensity and slow the rate of spread in areas where it is feasible and safe to do so.

Weather: Yesterday, August 5, the Southeast Fire Centre experienced 2,865 lightning strikes. Today, an upper low is tracking north of the complex, bringing slightly cooler temperatures in the low 30s and moderate northerly wind gusts. Thunderstorm activity is likely to develop in the area this afternoon or evening, August 6.

Fire behaviour: On August 5, fire behaviour intensified across the complex as southerly winds cleared the smoke, exposing fires directly to the sun. Similar conditions are anticipated today. This morning, lighter north winds and an inversion will keep conditions smoky to the south, reducing fire behaviour to surface fires in most areas. However, if the inversion breaks this afternoon, smoke will clear, and fire behaviour will increase, including tree torching in wind-exposed areas. Fire growth is driven by terrain-influenced winds, with downslope winds promoting nighttime downhill movement and upslope winds pushing the fire uphill during the day. These terrain-driven winds significantly impact fire behaviour and spread.

Challenges: Fire behaviour in the Southeast Fire Centre is influenced by a variety of challenging conditions. Fires naturally back down slopes but can be exacerbated by rolling burning debris that starts new fires below. Steep slopes and rocky terrain present challenges, while a lack of safe access or egress routes further complicates firefighting efforts.

Fires grow rapidly upslope, particularly on slopes receiving direct sunlight, where fire activity intensifies. North and south winds significantly impact fire behaviour, with south winds causing fires to move northward and north winds pushing fires southward. Additionally, the valley experiences downslope winds at night when the air cools and upslope winds during the day, further influencing fire direction and intensity.

Fire behaviour or intensity, combined with these challenging conditions and the presence of inaccessible danger trees on steep slopes above worksites, heightens risk to firefighters. To reduce the risk, danger tree assessors and Fallers work alongside crews to identify and remove danger trees in areas that have been impacted by fire.

Danger Trees: Coniferous trees, with low-lying branches and high sap content, are easily ignited by ground fires. The flames quickly reach the canopy, and the flammable sap accelerates the fire, leading to fast-moving wildfires. These trees often have shallow root systems that become unstable when the duff layer, a crucial anchoring layer of organic material, is burnt away. This makes the trees prone to falling, even if they appear undamaged on the outside, posing significant hazards to people, animals, and infrastructure. Fallen trees can block roads and obstruct access routes. Drought conditions worsen these problems by increasing the flammability of organic materials, resulting in more intense and widespread fires.

Slocan Lake Complex Information Team

Email: BCWS.Slocan.Information@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 778-405-4352

REPORT A WILDFIRE: 1 800 663-5555 OR *5555 from a cell phone





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August 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Complex resources: Incident Management Team, 114 structure protection personnel and 7 helicopters assigned to the complex

[Wilson Creek wildfire \(N51614\)](#)

Resources: 8 firefighters, 3 fallers

There is very minimal fire activity. Crews are patrolling for and extinguishing remaining hot spots. The fire is classified as Under Control.

[Nemo Creek wildfire \(N51103\)](#)

Resources: Structure protection personnel and 9 pieces of heavy equipment,

Operations include continuing work on a guard along the northern flank of the fire with heavy equipment and ongoing structure protection around threatened areas. There has been limited growth on the north flank in recent days, despite increased fire behaviour. There is potential for southward growth today due to the northerly winds.

The Komonko Creek wildfire (N51210) and the Aylwin Creek wildfire (N51065) merged at Enterprise Creek. All updates going forward will be provided on the Komonko Creek wildfire (N51210).

[Komonko Creek wildfire \(N51210\)](#)

Resources: 74 firefighters, 8 fallers and 14 pieces of heavy equipment

If conditions allow, small-scale ignitions may be used to secure the fire perimeter north of Red Mountain Road, which will help control the west perimeter of the Komonko Creek wildfire. Crews are directly attacking the fire from existing guards and patrolling along Highway 6 and fire perimeters to extinguish hot spots and protect structures. Due to steep slopes south of Enterprise Creek, there is a risk of rolling debris impacting the highway, with ongoing danger tree assessment and structure protection efforts in place.

[Mulvey Creek wildfire \(N51117\)](#)

Resources: 48 firefighters, 3 fallers and 9 pieces of heavy equipment

On the east flank, crews are mopping up from established guards. They are working from the fire perimeter 20-50 feet, patrolling for and extinguishing hot spots, and falling danger trees. On the south flank, crews are using small scale ignitions to remove fuel along the guards, working to tie into the Mulvey Creek drainage, and assessing options for direct attack.

[Ponderosa FSR \(N51069\)](#)

Resources: 74 firefighters, 12 pieces of heavy equipment

Preparation for a planned ignition operation continues, while crews reinforce the guard and establish a water delivery system. It is very unlikely that this operation would occur before Thursday, August 8. The fire has reached the guard in two places, and crews are using small-scale hand ignitions to limit spread and reduce the risk of fire spotting. Structure protection crews are setting up equipment, patrolling for hot spots, conducting FireSmart work, and establishing large water delivery systems, with ongoing assessment and monitoring of the apparatus.

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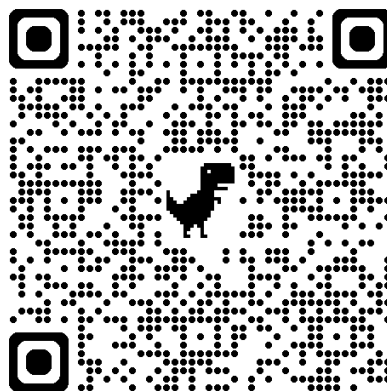
SOUTHEAST FIRE CENTRE

Wildfire Updates

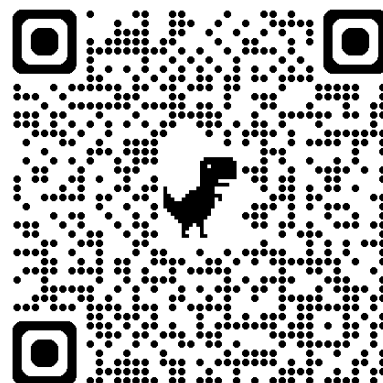
[Wildfire Map](#)



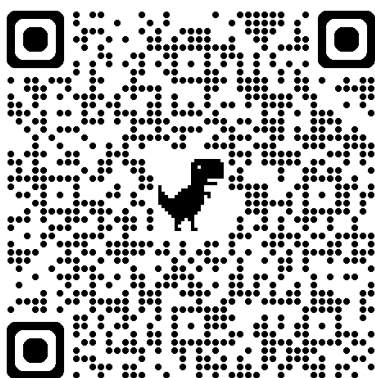
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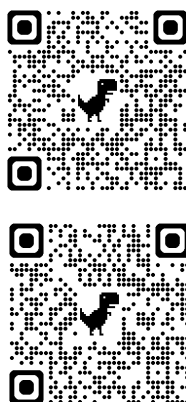
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BC Wildfire Service Claims

Inquires about compensation should be emailed to BCWSClaims@gov.bc.ca. If you don't have access to email, please contact Slokan Lake Complex Information Team at 778-405-4352 for the mailing address.

