



WILDFIRE UPDATE

Wildfires evolve rapidly and conditions can change extremely quickly. Information in this bulletin is current as of noon on Monday, August 2. For the latest information, go to [BCWILDFIRE.CA](https://bcwildfire.ca)



Airtankers are positioned at the Castlegar airport and assist as needed in fire suppression when visibility and conditions permit. Heavy smoke across the Southeast Fire Centre is keeping temperatures cooler, but impedes the ability of aircraft to support ground crews.

There are currently 65 wildfires burning in the Southeast Fire Centre. To date this fire season, the SEFC has responded to 296 wildfires, well over double the five-year average of 112. Cloud cover accompanied by variable amounts of precipitation from Sunday to Monday brought higher humidity, cooler temperatures and lower fire behaviour. Potential lightning forecast overnight Sunday largely missed the southeast, which saw just three positive strikes. Temperatures Monday are expected to range from the mid-20s to mid-30s, with light winds and a small chance of thunderstorms and wind gusts in some areas in the afternoon. Tuesday is expected to be warmer, with humidity dropping and the possibility of thunderstorms and gusting winds in the afternoon.

Fire sizes on the BC Wildfire Service's [public interactive map](#) and [Wildfires of Note](#) page are frequently updated. Several factors, along with the fire simply growing, affect reported fire sizes.

When a wildfire is reported, BC Wildfire Service personnel attend the location to assess the situation. If a fire is located, personnel estimate its size and relay that information to dispatchers, who update the public interactive map. Size estimates are continually updated until the fire is mapped. There are numerous ways to map wildfires, including by remote sensors, satellite imagery and infrared scanning. Often, accurate mapping will result in an increase to the reported size of a fire. Other times, it will result in a reduction of the fire size. Weather and other factors, such as heavy smoke cover, can affect the accuracy of mapping, resulting in changes or updates once conditions clear.

EVACUATION ORDERS AND ALERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR REGIONAL DISTRICT FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION.





WILDFIRE UPDATE

Wildfires of Note in the Southeast Fire Centre include:

TROZZO CREEK (N51705)

Date of detection: July 9, 2021

Location: Originated 7.5 kilometres north-east of Winlaw

Size: 5202 hectares

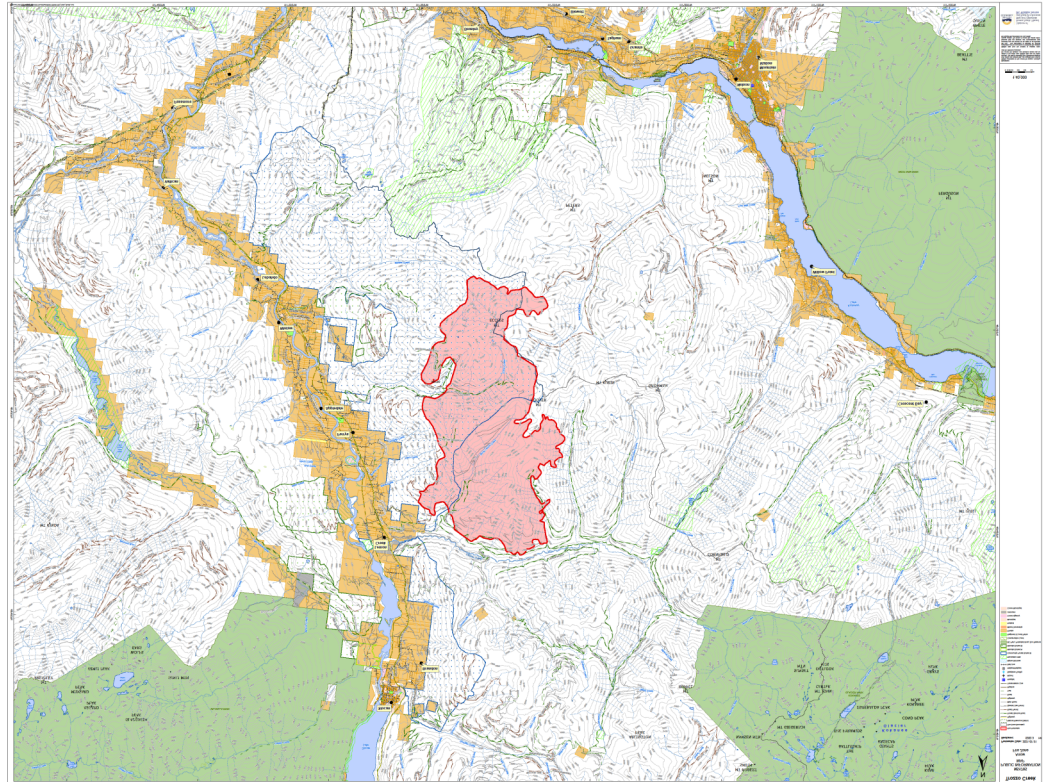
Status: Out of Control

Cause: Lightning

Resources: 151 personnel, 27 heavy equipment, 7 helicopters

Fire camp in place: No

Objectives: Fire activity has remained largely stable and general objectives the same: contain the western flank from Lemon Creek to Winlaw Creek, increase containment depth in the Trozzo Creek drainage, establish contingency guards north and south of the fire and plan containment guards for the south and east flanks to implement once the western flank is contained. Humid weather on Sunday assisted crews in making good progress in containment along the fire’s western flank. On Monday, crews continue fire suppression along the Lemon Creek and Elliot Anderson Forest Service Roads.



A map of the Trozzo Creek (N51705) wildfire on August 1, 2021. Poor visibility due to heavy smoke has made mapping challenging on many wildfires burning in the Southeast Fire Centre.

Tactics include using small hand ignitions, as conditions permit, to reduce available fuel, along with hose lays and sprinkler lines. Crews have successfully suppressed the fire up to five metres deep from 10-km on the Trozzo FSR north to 3-km on the Elliot Anderson FSR. There is still, however, the possibility of the fire spotting across the containment line. Firefighters continue to mop up to 100 feet deep along the contained edge in the Trozzo Creek drainage and monitor fire growth toward the east (Baldface Creek) and south (Sproule Creek). Firefighters will begin implementation of containment lines into upper Winlaw Creek on Monday. Structure protection specialists are assessing properties in Winlaw and Slocan. This is a proactive measure; it is not due to any imminent threat. Heavy equipment is completing construction of contingency guards on the Ponderosa FSR to Dayton FSR road series; completing an indirect guard along the Monument FSR to prevent growth to the east; improving the Ottawa and Pedro FSRs as contingency lines, and establishing an indirect guard from Pedro and Sproule FSR. Helicopters continue to support mop up activities, aerial monitoring and slowing fire growth along Lemon Creek. As of 18:00 on August 1, the fire had not crossed the Lemon Creek FSR. Ongoing challenges include: lack of access to upper Winlaw Creek; lack of water resources at high elevations and difficulties delivering by truck due to rough roads; steep, rocky and complex terrain; a high volume of dead and downed trees; dense smoke that limits visibility and the ability for fixed-wing aircraft to access the fire.

Evacuations: The Regional District of Central Kootenay has implemented an evacuation order and an evacuation alert in the vicinity of this fire. Further information is available at <https://www.rdck.ca>

Other: An area restriction order is in effect in the vicinity of this fire. Further information is available at www.bcwildfire.ca



BILL NYE MOUNTAIN (N11629)

Date of detection: July 8, 2021

Location: Originated 7 kilometres southeast of Wasa

Size: 2904 hectares (this will increase once further information is available)

Status: Out of Control

Cause: Lightning

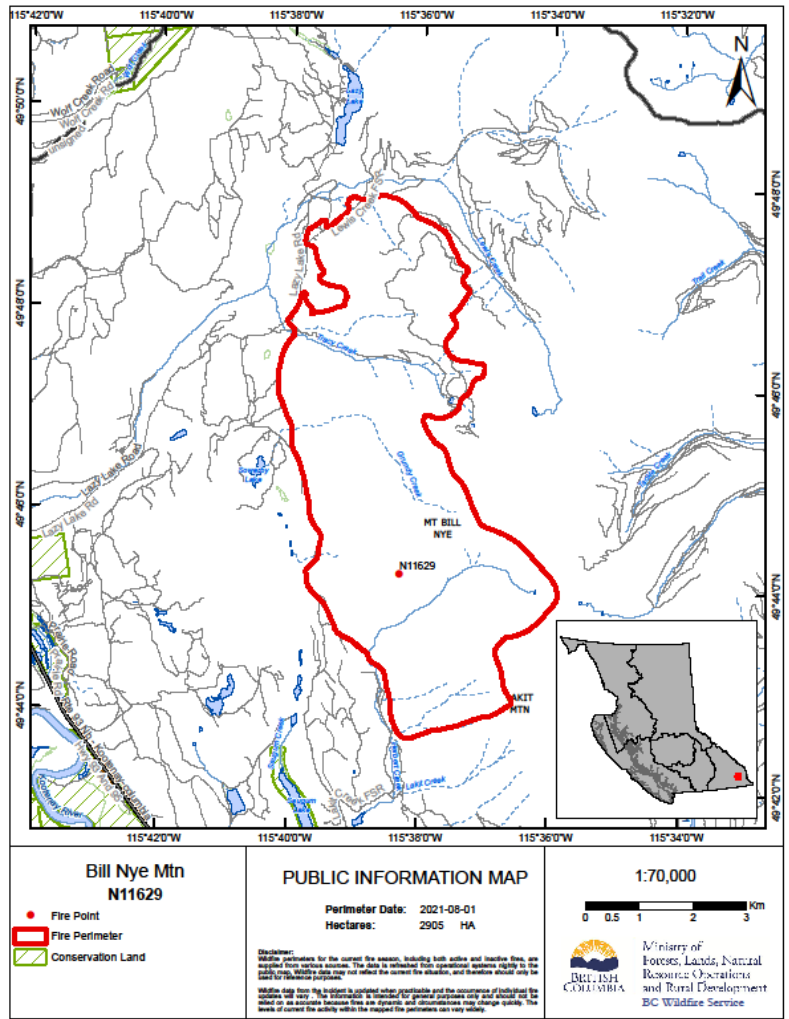
Resources: 64 personnel, 14 heavy equipment, 3 helicopters

Fire camp in place: No

Objectives: On Sunday, firefighters, supported by heavy equipment and helicopters, successfully contained an excursion that occurred when the fire crossed the Lazy Lake Road during a period of high winds overnight Saturday. Control lines are established around the excursion, which is less than 10 hectares, and it is now being held. Structures that were under threat were successfully protected and earlier work to remove fuel adjacent to powerlines along the road protected that infrastructure. A planned ignition on Sunday evening successfully removed fuel from a 72-hectare area near the Lazy Lake Road, reducing the risk of the fire spreading closer to structures. Personnel continue to monitor the burn for potential spotting. The area saw a small amount of precipitation overnight Sunday. On Monday, work continues to secure control lines along the northwest perimeter of the fire near Lazy Lake Road. Once that is complete, heavy equipment will return to work on control and contingency lines along the north flank. Helicopters continue to fly personnel to monitor growth and fire behaviour on all flanks, and provide bucketing to support containment within control lines. This wildfire has grown significantly since its size was last mapped at 2904 hectares, largely to the north but also to the west where the excursion took place. An updated size will be provided when it becomes available. Ongoing challenges include: extreme slopes, heavy concentrations of fuel, poor access, poor visibility due to heavy smoke and a significant increase in fire size. Cloud cover has increased humidity and cooled temperatures across the Southeast Fire Centre. Temperatures Monday are expected to range from the mid-20s to mid-30s, with light winds and a low risk of thunderstorms and wind gusts in some areas in the afternoon. Tuesday is expected to be warmer with humidity dropping again and the possibility of thunderstorms and gusting winds in the afternoon.

Evacuations: The Regional District of East Kootenay has implemented an evacuation order and an evacuation alert in the vicinity of this fire. Further information is available at <https://www.rdek.bc.ca/>

Other: An area restriction order is in effect. Further information is available at www.bcwildfire.ca



A map of the Bill Nye Mountain (N11629) wildfire on August 1 shows it at 2905 hectares. The fire grew significantly late Saturday, however, smoke continues to prevent accurate mapping. The size is still expected to increase.

**AKOKLI CREEK (N71686)**

Date of detection: July 9, 2021

Location: Originated 7 kilometres east of Boswell

Size: 3012 hectares

Status: Out of control

Cause: Lightning

Resources: 46 personnel, 3 heavy equipment, 3 helicopters

Fire camp in place: No

Objectives: Fire activity has decreased with some precipitation and crews have established good containment on the majority of the control lines along the south (Akokli Creek) and west above Boswell. Personnel continue to patrol the line for potential breaches. Work is underway to develop a containment strategy within Lockhart Park and beyond if the fire continues to move north. The fire is currently burning high on the slope away from structures. While the need for heavy equipment has been downsized, it remains available and on stand-by should circumstances change. Helicopters are standing by to support ground crews as needed and as visibility permits. Contingency plans are in place should the need to deploy structure protection arise and plans for control lines further downslope closer to structures are complete and can be implemented if warranted. As of 09:00 August 2, the fire remained within the planned containment area.



The Akokli Creek (N71686) wildfire, like many of the fires in the Southeast Fire Centre, is burning in steep, complex terrain, raising a number of challenges for ground crews. A section of the fire is pictured above on July 10, 2021.

Evacuations: The Regional District of Central Kootenay has implemented an evacuation alert in the vicinity of this fire. Further information is available at <https://www.rdck.ca>

Other: An area restriction order is in effect. Further information is available at www.bcwildfire.ca

EVACUATION ORDERS AND ALERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR REGIONAL DISTRICT FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION.

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









HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- View an interactive map by clicking [here](#) or visiting <http://ow.ly/uo2U30oXqzS>
- **Road Closures:** DriveBC | dial 1-800-550-4997 | <https://www.drivebc.ca/>
- **Drifting Smoke:** www.bcairquality.ca/bluesky/west/index.html
- **Smoke Health Concerns:** HealthLink BC | dial 8-1-1 | www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp
- For info on **Community Support Services**, click [here](#) or visit <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

BC Wildfire Service	Emergency Management BC	Local municipalities and regional districts	First Nations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BCWS’s jurisdiction covers all BC Parks, Crown and private lands, but does not include the boundaries of local governments that have forest fire prevention bylaws and are serviced by a fire department. - BCWS speaks directly about wildfires (i.e. fire status, operations, etc.) and is responsible for disseminating wildfire updates to local governments, stakeholders, First Nations and the public. - BCWS does <u>not</u> announce Strategic Evacuation Orders or Alerts. - BCWS <u>does</u> announce Tactical Evacuations. - In the event of an imminent threat to public safety, BCWS can authorize an immediate Tactical Evacuation of the affected area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EMBC coordinates communication across all agencies and stakeholders to support communities. - EMBC provides advice to evacuees and support to communities regarding Emergency Operations Centres and Emergency Support Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts speak directly about Strategic Evacuation Orders and Alerts in their respective jurisdictions. - Local Municipalities and Regional Districts <u>do not</u> speak about the status of a wildfire unless the fire occurs within their jurisdiction. For example, if a wildfire <u>starts</u> within the boundaries of a local government, BCWS will often assist the local fire department with suppression efforts. If the fire spreads into Crown land to become a wildfire, BCWS will often assume control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On IR lands, Evacuation Orders and Alerts are implemented by a Band Council Resolution or other. - A designated person(s) from the respective First Nations community will speak to Evacuation Orders and Alerts on IR lands.

ACCESSING INFORMATION

BC Wildfire Service Online Communications	EmergencyInfoBC EMBC Online Communications	PreparednessBC EMBC Online Communications
 @BCGovFireInfo	 @EmergencyInfoBC	 @PreparedBC
 www.bcwildfire.ca	 www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca	 www.gov.bc.ca/preparedBC
 BC Wildfire Service	 BCWS Mobile App	PreparedBC

FIRE 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) 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	The fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.

WILDFIRE RANKS:

Rank	Description
1	<p>Characteristics: Smouldering ground fire, no open flame, white smoke, slow (i.e. creeping) rate of fire spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools and water delivery systems (i.e. pumps and hose).</p>
2	<p>Characteristics: Surface fire, visible, open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front, slow rate of spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools, water delivery systems, or heavy equipment. Hand constructed control lines and lines that have been cleared of combustible material will likely be successful.</p>
3	<p>Characteristics: Organised flame front – fire progressing in organised manner, occasional candling may be observed along the perimeter and/or within the fire, moderate rate of spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Hand constructed control lines alone are likely to be challenged, ground crews conducting direct attack may require air support from fixed-wing air tankers, skimmers or helicopters conducting bucketing or tanking operations. Control lines constructed by heavy equipment will generally be effective</p>
4	<p>Characteristics: Grey to black smoke, organised surface flame front, moderate to fast rate of spread on the ground, short aerial bursts through the forest canopy, short-range spotting.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Ground operations may not be successful at the head of the fire, indirect tactics may be required to bring the head of the fire under control. Parallel attack may be used along the flanks of the fire to direct the head into favourable ground or fuels. Air operations may be required to support ground personnel.</p>
5	<p>Characteristics: Black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and spot fire growth.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: The limited options available include indirect attack and planned ignitions to remove fuel in the path of this type of fire behaviour. Ground operations are often restricted to fighting the least active sections of the fire or conducting ground ignition operations from secure control lines with readily available escape routes and safety zones.</p>
6	<p>Characteristics: Organised crown fire front, long-range spotting and independent spot fire growth, possible fireballs and whirls, violent fire behaviour probable, a dominant smoke column may develop which influences fire behaviour.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Firefighting under these conditions is extremely dangerous. Suppression efforts will be well away from active fire behaviour and may include preparing structure protection measures or conducting indirect large-scale ignition operations in an attempt to steer the fire. Often, the safest and most prudent strategy is to pull resources back to safe areas, ensure that personnel and the general public are safe, and wait for fire behaviour to lessen before re-engaging in fire suppression operations.</p>



RANK 1

RANK 2

RANK 3

RANK 4

RANK 5

RANK 6