

## ARGENTA CREEK CLUSTER

# Wildfire Update

July 26, 2024

### FIRE NUMBERS:

N71089  
N71088  
N71058  
N71101

### ESTIMATED SIZE:

*As of July 26 7:00 p.m. PDT*

N71089: 0.75 ha  
N71088: 3 ha  
N71058: 735 ha  
N71101: 51 ha

### FIRE STATUS:

N71089: Under Control  
N71088: Being Held  
N71058: Out of Control  
N71101: Out of Control

As residents experienced, the wind event on Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, drove aggressive fire behaviour and significant fire activity both up and downslope. This prompted evacuation alerts and orders to be implemented in multiple locations in the area.

This increase in activity also resulted in heavy smoke in the valleys and impacts to visibility. Though aircraft are often able to work at lower elevations, they have been unable to access higher elevations in the valleys due to increased concentrations of smoke.

Since the wind event, officers have been unable to fly the whole fire to get an accurate picture of new growth and provide a track of the new perimeter. A high-level scan happened the morning of July 26<sup>th</sup> and it returned limited results because of the level of interference (ie: smoke and cloud cover).

In order to provide transparent information, officers are using less precise methods to estimate fire growth. It is believed that up to seven fires, of various sizes, on the east side of the Kootenay and Duncan Lakes have merged, including Argenta Creek (N71058).

**As a result, we are anticipating the updated fire sizes in this cluster to see considerable growth when it is updated tomorrow (July 27<sup>th</sup>).**

This estimate will remain listed until smoke clears, an accurate track can be taken, and the size may change again. The merged fires will be removed from the dashboard July 27<sup>th</sup> and will be called Argenta Creek (N71058) moving forward and **will be listed as a Wildfire of Note on the wildfire map.**



*Photo submitted July 18, 2024*

## SEFC Information Section

Email: [BCWS.SEFCInformationOfficer@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCWS.SEFCInformationOfficer@gov.bc.ca)

Phone: 250 318-7715

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



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The cold front passage peaked July 24th. This instability resulted in strong south winds that continued to drive aggressive fire behaviour. Temperatures sitting at or below seasonal values and increased relative humidity is helping suppression efforts, though a return to warm and dry conditions is expected.

### Operations:

#### Argenta Creek (N71058)

- Contingency guards continue to be established from Argenta Creek to Carter Creek are nearing completion
- Crews are following recently established guard with hoselay and water delivery systems to reinforce
- Structure protection has been completed
- Helicopters will support ground crews by bucketing to cool the fires edge at lower elevations as visibility allows

#### Lower Meadow Mountain (N71101)

- The guard is continuing to hold

### Closure:

As a proactive measure, BC Parks has closed the Earl Grey Pass trailhead due to the proximity of the N71089 and N71088 wildfires.



*Photo submitted July 24, 2024 at 11 a.m.*

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SOUTHEAST FIRE CENTRE

# Wildfire Updates

Wildfire Map

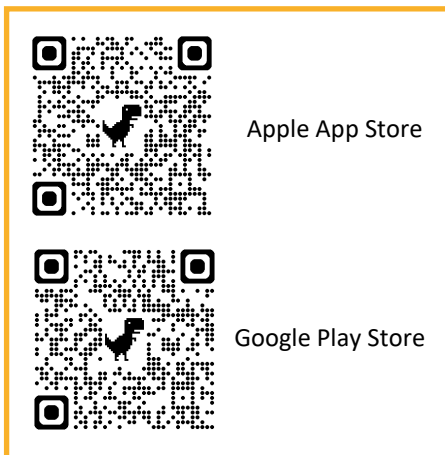
SEFC Bans & Restrictions

Wildfire Rank



Stages of Control

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