



# WILDFIRE UPDATE

## Placer Mountain Fire (K61241)

**Location:** Approx. 37 km south of Princeton.

**Date of Discovery:** July 17, 2018

**Fire Size:** 828 hectares, mapped

**Status:** Out of Control

**Cause:** Lightning

**Resources:** 98 firefighters, 8 helicopters, 5 water tenders and 7 pieces of heavy equipment.

**Objectives:** Crews will continue to mop-up on north flank progressing eastward as well as burning out green islands within the perimeter. Equipment is being used to open a spur road for additional access with heavy equipment. Crews are working to establish a hose lay from the gully on the fire's north flank to the mine site and to action spot fire within old burn area. Firefighters are constructing a fuel free line off the Ashnola River up the road line and from North Durusseau Road to the scree slope off Ashnola Road and working on hot spots in regeneration. Structural protection assessments are being carried out on identified structures within the vicinity of the fire.

**Evacuations:** There is an evacuation alert for Cathedral Park Lodge and access routes within the vicinity.

**Area Closure:** An Area Restriction Order is in place in the vicinity of Placer Lake effective noon, Saturday, July 28, 2018.

**Other:** BC Parks has closed Ewart and Wall Creek trails.

Please go to: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/cathedral/>



Placer Mtn. Fire prior to Planned Ignitions on July 27, 2018

## Snowy Mountain Fire (K51238)

**Location:** Approx. 14 km south of Keremeos

**Date of Discovery:** July 17, 2018

**Fire Size:** 1,530 ha

**Status:** Out of Control

**Cause:** Lightning

**Resources:** Fire is burning up into the sub-alpine with moderate intensity. Minimal downslope movement. A remote camera has been set up and is providing real time imaging to assist in monitoring this fire.

**Objectives:** Modified Response. Continue to closely monitor and assess. Land managers have been consulted and trigger points have been set to determine at what point this fire will be actioned. The fire is burning at a high elevation and is visible to Cawston and Keremeos.

Structural protection assessments are being carried out on identified structures within the vicinity of the fire.

**Other:** This fire is located in the Snowy Protected Area. BC Parks has closed Ewart and Wall Creek trails pending further assessment of the fire.

For more information go to: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/snowy/>

**Evacuations:** There are no current evacuation orders or alerts.



Snowy Mountain Fire—July 28, 2018  
Photo taken by remote camera

We have a new email address for anyone who would like to contact us here at the Placer Complex:

[PlacerComIN@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PlacerComIN@gov.bc.ca)



# WILDFIRE UPDATE

## Situational Awareness on the Fireline

**Hazards to Fireline Staff**—The most obvious danger on a fireline is the fire itself. Crews are trained to be cautious and to watch for changes in wind direction, fire behaviour changes and any other potential hazards onsite.

Working with large equipment, and tools always presents its own challenges. Inattention, even momentarily can potentially be disastrous. Crews are taught to self-monitor and to look out for one another.

You will hear a term used often by BC Wildfire Service staff - 'Situational Awareness'. Situational Awareness means actively monitoring where you are, in relation to your environment. On a fire your environment includes flames, ashpits, unstable ground, danger trees, large equipment and others working in the same proximity. This means that crews cannot just put their heads down and work they must be actively aware of everything that is happening around them and looking out for anomalies.

**Hazardous Weather**—Each morning at every fire there is a briefing that include weather. On each fire there is weather report in the Incident Action Plan that crews receive each morning on the fireline, and in some cases, an additional weather advisory or spot forecast that is more specific than the generalized weather forecast for the area.

Weather factors that contribute to unpredictable and/or high rates of spread on a fire include:

- \* Wind increasing or changing direction
- \* High temperatures and low humidity's
- \* Prolonged drought - low fuel moisture
- \* Thunderstorms can cause strong and gusty winds, wind shifts and downdrafts

It is up to the crew leader to make sure that the crew reads, acknowledges and understands how weather, particularly a weather advisory or spot forecast may affect their behaviour on the fireline. Today on the Placer Mountain Fire a 'Fire Behaviour Advisory' will be issued detailing the shifting winds and resulting fire behaviour including potential for intermittent crown fire or crown fire (please see next page for fire weather forecast).

**Rolling Debris**—Even relatively small rocks hurtling down a mountainside can inflict fatal injuries upon firefighters. On this fire, there are hillsides that are referred to as scree slopes which are slopes covered with small stones.

Heavy equipment, helicopter downwash and fire fighters moving across slopes can all trigger falling rocks or boulders. Fire fighters yell 'Rock!' if rocks or other debris, are kicked loose accidentally or observed rolling down a hill.

Everyone must pay attention to their surroundings and watch for any objects organic or non-organic rolling down a slope. Heavy equipment, in particular, can endanger fire fighters as trees and rocks loosened by vehicles falls into the work area. Aircraft can knock trees down with downdraft gusts so crews must be especially vigilant and maintain 'heads up' visual contact when working in the vicinity of helicopters or airtankers.

**BCWS Staff are expected to take every precaution and be situationally aware while working in potentially dangerous conditions.**



## HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Link to Wildfire of Note: <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp?ID=699>

Drifting Smoke: [www.bc.airquality.ca/bluesky/west/index.html](http://www.bc.airquality.ca/bluesky/west/index.html)

Smoke Health Concerns: HealthLink BC | dial 8-1-1 | [www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp)



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Remember that a Campfire Prohibition is in place throughout the Kamloops Fire Centre.

For more information go to: <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>

To report a Wildfire call: 1-800-663-5555 or \*5555 on your cell

To call in a violation of the prohibition (if you do not consider the violation an immediate threat) you can call:

Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) at 1-877-952-7277 or #7277.

## Fire Weather

Hot, dry trend continues, possible isolated thunderstorms each day, potential weather change on Tuesday. Lower temps only real difference.

**Saturday:** Mainly sunny. High temperature near 29 and minimum RH near 15%. Winds north to northwest 10-20 km/h.

**Sunday:** Mainly sunny. High temperature near 29 and minimum RH near 15%. Winds SouthWest 10-20 km/h.

**Outlook:** The upper ridge continues through Monday, giving temperatures reaching to the high twenties and RH values in the teens. Overnight RH recoveries will be poor to fair Monday will be similar, but on Tuesday an upper trough approaching the coast will give temperatures two to four degrees cooler and afternoon RH values back into the twenties. A slight chance of thunderstorms on Tuesday.

## Public Weather

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
07/29	07/30	07/31	08/01	08/02	08/03	08/04
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny
						
34°	35°	35°	30°	26°	23°	22°

### ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Information Officer: Ken Juvik | 604-819-7205



[www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)



BC Forest Fire Info

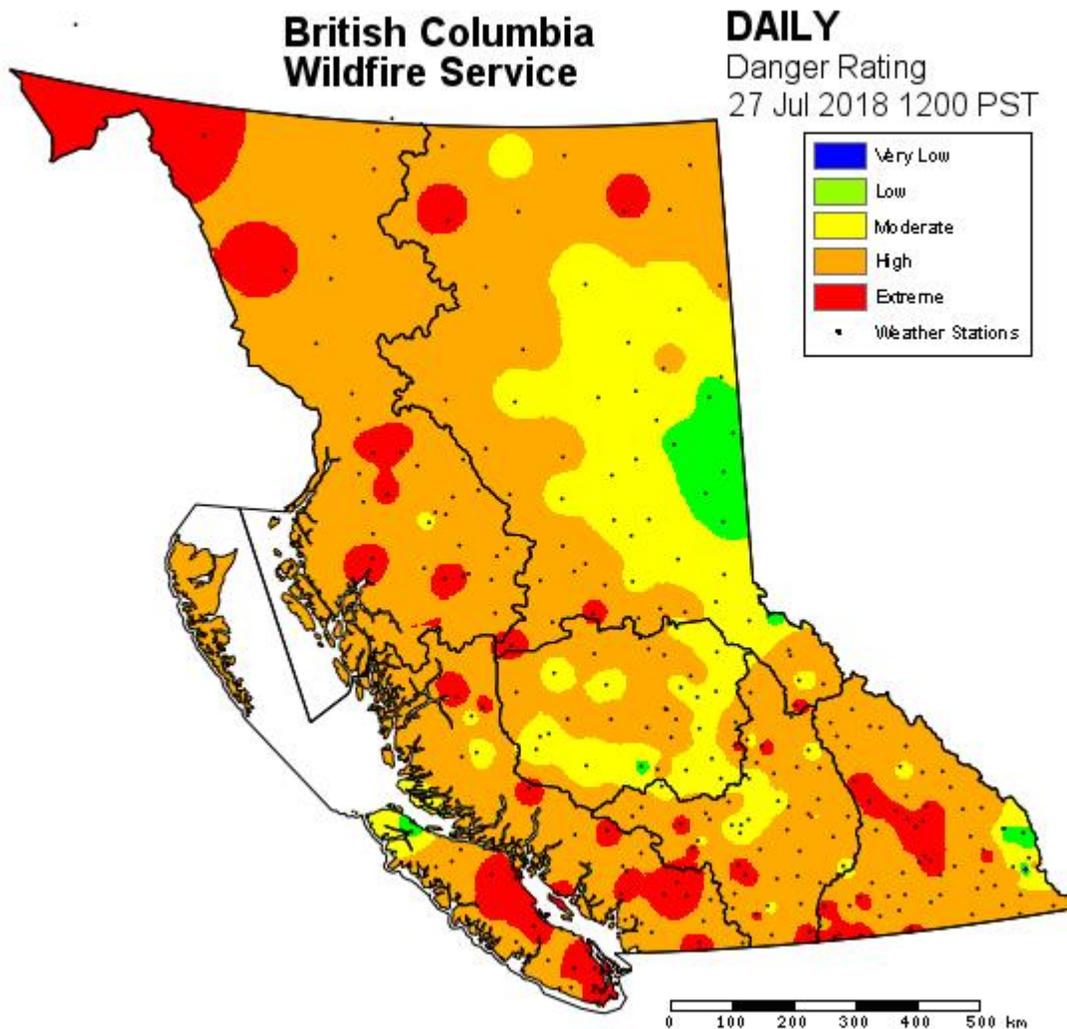


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## Fire Danger Rating:



Call 1-800-663-5555 or \*5555 on your cell phone

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