



# WILDFIRE UPDATE

## Placer Mountain Fire (K61241)

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

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

**Fire Size:** 1,521 hectares

**Status:** Out of Control

**Cause:** Lightning

**Resources:** 79 firefighters, 8 helicopters, 5 water tenders and 9 pieces of heavy equipment.

**Objectives:** Crews are continuing to mop up after a planned ignition conducted on July 29, 2018, along the northeast of the fire. A crew will continue building a fuel free line in the south from the Ashnola River along a scree slope. Crews did not do any burning on this fire yesterday, growth was on the southwest flank and was from 'natural' fire.

**Structural Protection (SPU):** A team will be finalizing Cathedral Lakes Lodge structural protection today.



Snowy Mountain Fire—July 31, 2018  
Remote Camera at 10:16 am

## Snowy Mountain Fire (K51238)

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

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

**Fire Size:** 3,050 hectares

**Status:** Out of Control

**Cause:** Lightning

**Resources:** 43 firefighters, 3 Helicopters and 3 pieces of heavy equipment. A remote camera continues to provide real time imaging to assist in monitoring this fire.

**Objectives:** No planned ignitions were conducted by BC Wildfire Service on this fire yesterday. Fire behaviour was extremely active yesterday and was burning Rank 5/6 in some areas. The fire grew approximately 1000 hectares burning up a valley to the northwest away from the community of Cawston.

Crews will be constructing a handguard north of Susap Creek to tie into an existing guard to the south of the creek. This fuel free line was 80% complete at end of day yesterday. A machine guard is also being established to the east of the handguard.



Snowy Mountain Fire—July 30, 2018

**A new Incident Management Team is transitioning in today. Transition is one day of turnover in order to familiarize the new team with what has been accomplished to date and what is planned going forward. For all your questions the email below remains the same. Claire Allen is the incoming Information Officer for the Placer Complex—contact 250-319-2205 .**

**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

## Fire Behaviour Influences

The Snowy Mountain and Placer Mountain fires both grew in size yesterday. The growth was not wind driven nor was it the result of planned ignitions on the part of BC Wildfire Service but a number of other influences particularly: fuel, temperature, slope, humidity, aspect and terrain.

**Fuel**—Basically, fuel is anything that can burn. In the context of wildfires, it refers to all plant material in a forest or on grassland, both above and below ground. This includes trees, of course, but also grass, dead leaves, tree needles, brush, logs, stumps and deep duff. Deep duff is the stuff you walk on: roots, buried branches and humus (nutrient-rich, decomposed plant material that helps plants grow).

Apart from the air and animals, about the only things in a forest that aren't considered fuel are the sand, clay and gravel portions of the soil (the mineral soil).

**Temperature** also affects fire behaviour. Fuels that have been heated up by the sun will ignite and burn faster than cooler fuels. Hot weather is the greatest contributing factor to drying out fuels and making a forest or grassland more susceptible to wildfire.

**Slope** refers to the steepness of the land. It influences the direction that a wildfire will move and how fast it spreads. In general, a fire moves faster uphill than downhill. The steeper the slope, the faster the fire tends to move, due to the following factors.

- On the uphill side of a fire, the flames are physically closer to the fuels and “preheat” them. Drier fuels make a wildfire more volatile.
- Convective heat will rise up a slope, causing drafts that help the fire spread.
- Embers or burning pieces of fuel may roll downhill to unburned fuels, starting new fires or accelerating the fire's spread. This is called “backing down” a hill.
- Sloped terrain can also hinder crew access to the wildfire site and make it more difficult for firefighters to move and work. (For example, a crew member working lower on a slope may have to contend with rolling rocks and debris dislodged higher up the slope.)

**Humidity** is the level of moisture (water vapour) in the air and it will affect the moisture content of fuels. For a fuel to burn at a higher temperature, this moisture first must be driven out, and converting that moisture to water vapour cools the fuel and the air around it. High humidity results in lower fire intensity. In the evening, humidity levels generally rise and fuels absorb moisture, reducing the possibility of quick combustion.

**Aspect** is the direction that the slope faces. Southern slopes receive direct heat from the sun, which dries out soil, vegetation and fine fuels. Convective heat results in stronger winds, lower humidity and lower moisture content in fuels.

**Terrain** is the variation in landscape features that can affect wind direction and speed. Wind, like water, follows the path of least resistance (Venturi Effect). Ridges, trees and large rocks may cause wind turbulence and eddies. The speed of the wind can increase when it travels through narrow canyons, and steep “V drainages” can create a chimney effect. Fires that occur in these chutes can burn intensely and spread rapidly. Elevation can also affect air temperature. In general, the higher the elevation, the cooler the air. Fuels types can change at higher elevations and become sparse. Alpine terrain is characterized by scattered brush vegetation, interspersed with rock.

**Spot a wildfire, smoke or illegal fire activity?**

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

### ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Information Officer: Ken Juvik | 604-819-7205 (July 31) Claire Allen | 250-319-2205 (July 31—onward)



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



BC Forest Fire Info



@ BCGovFireInfo



# WILDFIRE UPDATE

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 thundershower.

**Tuesday** Mainly sunny in the morning. Patchy afternoon cloud with a slight risk of a thunderstorm. High temperature near 28 and minimum RH near 15%. Winds southwest 15 to 20 km/h. Gusts to 30 km/h.

**Wednesday:** Temps 28, RH 15% Winds SW 15 to 20 g 30.

An upper low is forecast to lie off the west coast of Vancouver Island on Wednesday. A southwest flow aloft will bring a mix of sun and cloud to the fire. There is a slight risk of an afternoon thunderstorm. Variable cloudiness with a chance of showers on Thursday as an upper trough passes through. A mix of sun and cloud on Friday as a weak upper ridge builds over the area. Cooler temperatures though the period, low twenties on Wednesday dropping to the upper teens Thursday and Friday. Good chance of gusty southwest to west winds all three days.

## Public Weather

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
08/01	08/02	08/03	08/04	08/05	08/06	08/07
Sunny	Mainly sunny	Chance of a shower	Mainly sunny	A mix of sun and clouds	Cloudy with showers	A Few showers
						
30°	25°	21°	23°	25°	18°	19°

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# WILDFIRE UPDATE

## Alerts and Orders

### July 29, 2018 2:45 pm—Evacuation Alert For 1 Property at Cathedral Lakes Lodge in Electoral “G”

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Emergency Operations Centre (RDOS EOC) is issuing an Evacuation Alert due to the threat of the Placer Mtn. wildfire, K61241 in the vicinity of Cathedral Lakes Lodge north of Keremeos in Electoral Area “G,” for the following properties: Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park - The Lodge. For more information go to: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/home/>

### July 29, 2018 2:30 pm—Evacuation Alert For 4 Properties (2 Addresses) on Chopaka Road in Electoral “B”

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Emergency Operations Centre (RDOS EOC) is issuing an Evacuation Alert due to the threat of the Snowy Mtn. Protected Area wildfire K51238 in the vicinity of Cawston in Electoral Area “B” and adjacent to the Lower Similkameen Indian Band. The Alert is for the following properties along Chopaka Road: 1050 and 1101.

**Smalqmix (Lower Similkameen Indian Band)** citizens can contact their band office at <https://www.lsib.net/> for any updates.

### Cathedral Provincial Park and Protected Area, July 29, 2018: Wall Creek and Ewart Creek Trail accesses are currently CLOSED due to wildfire activity.

Wall Creek and Ewart Creek Trail accesses are currently CLOSED as part of a broader area closure due to nearby wildfire activity. As well, the Ashnola Fores Service Road (FSR) is closed at 25km. Cathedral Lakes Lodge and core area campgrounds and trails, as well as the Lakeview trail and private road access remain open but are under an evacuation alert. Wildfire is not threatening the park, but park users are asked to remain vigilant and refer to park staff or [emergencyinfo.bc.ca](http://emergencyinfo.bc.ca) for changing information.

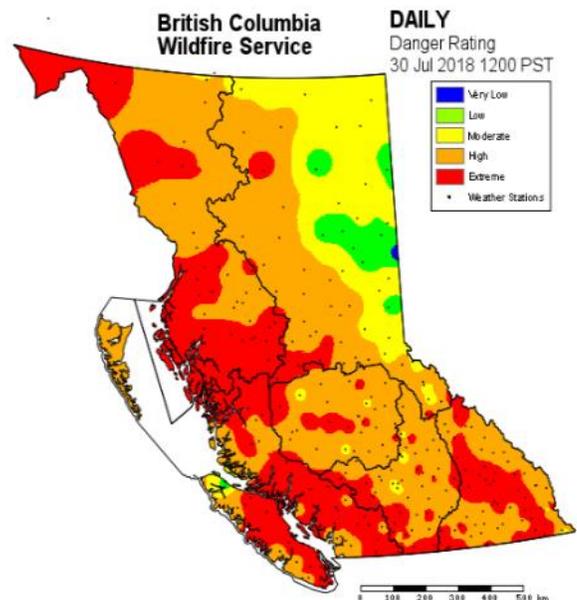
For updated messages go to information go to: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/cathedral/Snowy Protected Area, July 28, 2017: Smoky conditions due to wildfire in Washington State>

The Diamond Creek fire, 20km southwest of Cathedral Park in Washington State, may create smoky conditions in the local area. At this time the park is not threatened. BC Parks will update this alert and inform park visitors as required.

**Posted July 19, 2018:** There is an active fire within the protected area east of Joe Lake The Ewart Creek trail access is closed, pending further assessment of the fire.

An Area Restriction is in place for the area around the Placer Mountain Fire for a map of the Restriction go to: [\[Link\]](#).

## Fire Danger Rating:



## HELPFUL RESOURCES:

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

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