



# INCIDENT UPDATE

## Monashee Complex

<b>This information is current as of:</b>	August 13, 2018
<b>Incident Commander (IC)</b>	Jane Park
<b>Contact information</b>	<p>Information Officers:</p> <p>Kim Weir Fire Information Officer Ph: 780-852-8852 Email: <a href="mailto:kim.weir@gov.bc.ca">kim.weir@gov.bc.ca</a> Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. only</p> <p>Brenna Ward Fire Information Officer Ph: 250-318-6959 Email: <a href="mailto:Brenna.ward@gov.bc.ca">Brenna.ward@gov.bc.ca</a> Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. only</p>
<b>Incident overview</b>	<p>The Monashee Complex of wildfires refers to the 27 fires burning in the drainages of Mabel and Sugar lakes from just south of Highway 6 in the south to Three Valley Gap in the north.</p> <p>The IMT currently managing the Monashee Complex is prioritizing three Fires of Note: Mabel Creek (K41813), Sugar Mountain (K41791), Harris Creek (K41800). The remainder of the fires burning in the Monashee Complex are in modified response, or are being monitored and assessed.</p> <p>Priority fires are assessed and evaluated based on their potential threat first to lives and safety, second to property and third to values like critical infrastructure and industry interests.</p>
<b>Weather forecast</b>	<p>Over the weekend thunderstorm activity brought dry lightning, precipitation and cooler temperatures through the area of the Monashee Complex. This meant minimal fire growth over the weekend.</p> <p>The Northern Okanagan, much like the rest of Western Canada, is experiencing heavy smoke. The smoke in the Northern Okanagan cannot be attributed to one single fire, rather southwesterly winds are bringing smoke from the western states of the U.S., which is further impacted by the fires that British Columbia is experiencing across the province.</p> <p>Today, a ridge is rebuilding, which is forecast to bring higher temperatures and lower humidity values. We are expecting to see an increase in fire behaviour by the end of the week and are strategizing accordingly. There may even be some lightning holdovers from Saturday’s storm in the area that could flare up this week.</p>
<b>Fire behavior prediction</b>	<p>We are preparing to see higher fire behaviour later this week as conditions begin to heat up. Growth of fires in this complex was fairly low over the weekend though some fires may experience growth over the coming days due to changing weather conditions.</p>
<b>Challenges</b>	<p>One of the main issues facing the province right now is resourcing. Many resources are getting diverted to higher priority fires throughout the rest of the province where property and the safety of the public is at risk. Currently, no fires in the Monashee Complex are threatening people or homes.</p> <p>On Sunday, the wet and slippery forest roads presented several safety hazards and prevented crews from gaining access to higher elevations. Sunday’s smoky conditions resulted in grounding of aircraft, some of which are used as medical transport for firefighters. Given the remote locations of these fires, this also means that crews could not partake in hazardous activities such as tree falling which is critical to making progress on these fires.</p> <p>Danger trees are a high hazard throughout this complex. Many of the fires are burning in high elevation with steep and rocky terrain.</p> <p>Anticipated challenges include possible new fire starts emerging from holdover lightning strikes, the potential for higher fire behaviour this week and the potential for fire growth.</p>

<b>Yesterday's achievements</b>	Due to yesterday's challenging weather conditions, the bulk of the progress was made by heavy equipment.
<b>Today's objectives</b>	Today's objectives include building machine guard and hand guard in areas we are unable to reach with machines, reinforcing and patrolling the guard already in place, and generally progressing toward containment.
<b>Other</b>	<p>There is a closure along the Mabel Lake FSR to all recreation traffic from Km 10 (north the Mabel Lake Provincial Park) to Km 59 (at the junction of Highway 1) and all recreation sites along that road. The closure does not apply to the residents in the Mable Lake Holdings community, nor other private residences along the Mabel Lake FSR. This closure is not due to fire threat but for road safety for our crews and industry partners traveling to and from the fires.</p> <p>We have had a number of reports of people violating the area restriction that is in place for the safety of our workers as well as for the safety of the public. As such, we are working with our enforcement partners to have a higher presence of Natural Resource Officers in the area of the Mabel Lake Forest Service Road.</p>

**Definitions: 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) that 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:** Indicates that the fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.
- Out:** Indicates that the fire has been extinguished.

Fire Name	Fire Number	Size (ha)	Status	Fire of Note	Action
Mabel Creek	K41813	1,861	OC	Y	Full Response - Sustained
Sugar Mountain	K41797	332	OC	Y	Full Response - Sustained
Harris Creek FSR	K41800		OC	Y	Full Response - Sustained
Devil's Creek	K42185	35	OC	N	Full Response - Sustained
North Tip of Mabel Lake	K42099	1.2	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Kidney Lake	K42472	0.009	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Derry Drainage	K41812	31	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Iron Creek #2	K42096	0.009	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
SW Green Bush Lake	K42146	2.1	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Hound Creek	K42136	0.1	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Whip Creek	K42067	133	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Smyth Creek	K42097	40	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Finlyson Lakes	K42022	16	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Spectrum Creek	K41987	0.009	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Sprokton Creek	K42448	0.009	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Ireland Creek	K42040	2	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Silver Ireland FSR	K42116	0.009	OUT	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire

Sugar Lake Road	K41458	0.009	OUT	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Silver Hills	K42044	0.009	OUT	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Proctor Road	K41809	20	BH	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Spallumcheen Forest	K41772	2.83	UC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire

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