



Monashee Complex

INCIDENT UPDATE

<b>This information is current as of:</b>	August 14, 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) and Harris Creek (K41800). These fires are in full response sustained action. The Whip Creek fire (K42067) and the Smyth Creek fire (K2097) have burned together. From this point forward, these fires will be managed together as one under the name Whip Creek (K42067). The remainder of the fires burning in the Monashee Complex are in variations of full response as either monitor-only fires or as modified fires. Please refer to the definitions section of this document for details.</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> <p>The current IMT will be transitioning with incoming resources on Friday, August 17.</p>
<b>Weather forecast</b>	<p>A ridge is currently rebuilding, which is forecast to bring higher temperatures and lower humidity values. We are expecting to see an increase in fire behaviour later this week and are strategizing accordingly. There may be some lightning holdovers from Saturday’s storm in the area that could flare up later this week.</p> <p>Today’s weather is forecast to be sunny with cloudy periods, with some smoke remaining in the valleys. Winds will trend westerly, which will help improve visibility. The trend towards sunny and dry conditions will continue with high temperatures in the low to mid 20’s C.</p>
<b>Fire behavior prediction</b>	Currently, we are not expecting any significant fire growth because winds are forecast to be fairly light in this region. We are also seeing high relative humidities overnight, which will help to temper fire behaviour.
<b>Challenges</b>	<p>Danger trees are a hazard throughout this complex. Many of the fires are burning in high elevation with steep, rocky and unstable 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> <p>The smoky conditions have been challenging our operations but increased visibility today will allow for increased fire suppression activities as well as the opportunity to fly rotary aircraft.</p>
<b>Yesterday’s achievements</b>	<p>Due to yesterday’s challenging weather conditions, the bulk of the progress was made by heavy equipment.</p> <p>The IMT’s management of the Monashee Complex is running smoothly. The fire camp in Lumby is almost fully established. Resourcing on the three priority fires are in a good place. Information processes are becoming more</p>

	streamlined and established point of contact for the public are in place. Stakeholders and partners are being updated as new information becomes pertinent. Please reach out to either information officer if you have questions or concerns.
<b>Today's objectives</b>	<p>The Monashee Complex has received an additional 20 BCWS firefighters, who have been allocated to two different fires within the complex. These additional resources will help to optimize the weather conditions to make good progress on the fires today. Today's objectives for crews include building guard in areas we are unable to reach with machines, reinforcing and patrolling the guard already in place, and generally progressing toward containment.</p> <p>As the smoke lifts from the area and visibility increases, we will be able to fly helicopters again. Today, division supervisors and the operations chief plan to perform aerial assessments of the fires burning within the Monashee Complex. They are planning to track certain fire perimeters to have updated sizes of fires though this may be hindered depending on smoke conditions.</p>
<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. 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: Response Strategies**

<b>Full Response – Sustained</b>	A wildfire which requires aggressive sustained suppression action until the fire is declared out. A wildfire that is not expected to be held from the time of detection to the end of the third burning period (72 hours).
<b>Full Response Modified Fire</b>	A wildfire that is managed using a combination of suppression techniques, including direct and indirect attack as well as monitoring to steer, contain or otherwise manage fire activity within a pre-determined perimeter such that costs and/or damage are minimized and/or benefits from the fire are maximized.
<b>Full Response Monitor-Only Fire</b>	A wildfire that is observed and assessed to determine the response option required to minimize social disruption and/or significant value and resources impacts while achieving beneficial ecological, economic or resource management objectives.

**Definitions: Stages of Control**

<b>Out of Control:</b>	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.
<b>Being Held:</b>	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.
<b>Under Control:</b>	Indicates that the fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.
<b>Out:</b>	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	508	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
Upper Eagle River	K41899	23.76	OC	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire

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