



INCIDENT UPDATE

Monashee Complex

This information is current as of: August 15, 2018

Incident Commander (IC) Jane Park

Contact information

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Incident overview

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.

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). Currently, the Whip Creek fire is being resourced and actioned though it is not considered a Fire of Note at this time therefore there are less updates and information available for it. It is not threatening any structures at this time. The remainder of the fires burning in the Monashee Complex are either full response monitor-only fires or as full response - modified fires. Please refer to the definitions section of this document for details.

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.

The current IMT will be transitioning with incoming resources on Friday, August 17.

Weather forecast

Today’s weather is forecast to be smoky in the morning and slightly clearer in the afternoon due to some light wind. There is a slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon though with limited precipitation in this area. Temperatures are expected to reach the mid-20s while relative humidity values are at 38%, which is moderate for this area.

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 even be some lightning holdovers from Saturday’s storm in the area that could flare up later this week.

Fire behavior prediction

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 humidity values overnight, which will help to temper fire behaviour.

Challenges

Danger trees are a hazard throughout this complex. Many of the fires are burning in high elevation with steep and rocky terrain.

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.

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.

Yesterday's achievements	<p>Yesterday, crews continued to make progress on the three priority fires within the complex by performing tasks such as digging guard, laying hose, wet-lining and preparing for a potential burn operation so it can be performed as soon as conditions allow.</p> <p>The IMT's management of the Monashee Complex is running smoothly. The fire camp in Lumby is almost fully established. There is an IMT coming this evening to transition operations from the Parks Canada IMT. Resourcing on the three priority fires are in a good place. Information processes are becoming more 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.</p>
Today's objectives	<p>Today's objectives include continuing to establish containment on all three priority fires by building guard, laying hose and establishing a wet line. If conditions permit, crews will perform a hand ignition operation on the Harris Creek fire (K41800) to reduce unburned fuels and effectively strengthen containment lines.</p> <p>Today, division supervisors and the operations chief plan to continue with 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>
Other	<p>There is an Area Restriction Order along the northeast side of Mabel Lake and 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. There is an Area Restriction Order on northeast side of Sugar Lake, the Sugar Creek recreation site on the North-East corner of Sugar lake, and the Kate Creek FSR access road.</p> <p>The exceptions to these Area Restrictions are those persons entering the area only in the course of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Travelling to or from his or her principle residence, that is not under an evacuation order; Travelling to or from private or leased property for the purposes of accessing a secondary residence or recreational property, that is not under an evacuation order; Travelling as a person acting in an official capacity; Travelling for the purpose of supporting wildfire suppression activities; or, Engaging and/or participating in agricultural activities pertaining to livestock management on private or leased property. <p>We have had a number of reports of people violating the area restrictions and the Forest Service Road closure that are 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

Full Response-Sustained	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).
Full Response-Modified Fire	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.
Full Response-Monitor-Only fire	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

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	K41791	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

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