



INCIDENT UPDATE

Monashee Complex

This information is current as of: August 16, 2018

Incident Commander (IC) Jane Park

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Incident overview

The Monashee Complex started at 27 fires and now covers 15 fires in the drainages of Mabel and Sugar lakes from just south of Hwy 6 in the south to Three Valley Gap in the north. The change in number is due to a few factors: K41813 burned into several smaller fires, some fires are now OUT or Under Control, and others have been transferred to the Vernon Zone.

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.

A new IMT made up of out of province resources is transitioning into the complex today.

Weather forecast

A ridge is currently rebuilding, which is forecast to bring higher temperatures and lower humidity values. Today’s weather is forecast to be sunny with smoky conditions for the morning, and filtered sun and smoke in the afternoon. Sunny and dry conditions will continue with high temperatures in the mid 20’s C. There is a chance of late day thunderstorms.

Fire behavior prediction

We are beginning to see an increase in fire behaviour and are responding and strategizing accordingly. A small holdover fire from Saturday’s storm exhibited increased fire behaviour yesterday. We responded with air support and continue to monitor and assess the situation today. We are anticipating additional holdover lightning fires.

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 steadily increasing visibility continues to allow for increased fire suppression activities as well as the opportunity to fly rotary aircraft. As smoky skies begin to clear, we are anticipating detection of new starts and holdover lightning fires.

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 and wet-lining.</p> <p>Crews on the Harris Creek fire were able to perform a small hand ignition operation yesterday. The section measured less than one hectare and was successfully tied into a logging road and a machine guard.</p> <p>A small holdover fire from Saturday's storm exhibited increased fire behaviour yesterday. We responded with air support and continue to monitor and assess the situation today. The fire is named Sprokton Creek (K42448) and is visible to campers and recreationalists on west side of Sugar lake. It is not currently threatening the public.</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>A priority for the IMT today is to successfully transition the management of the Monashee Complex to the incoming IMT.</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
East of Tsuius Mountain	K42143	4.8	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	N/A
Sugar Lake Road	K41458	0.009	OUT	N	N/A
Silver Hills	K42044	0.009	OUT	N	N/A
Proctor Road	K41809	20	BH	N	N/A
Spallumcheen Forest	K41772	2.83	UC	N	N/A
Wap Creek	K41874	0.009	OUT	N	N/A
**BURNED INTO K41813	K41983				N/A
**BURNED INTO K41813	K41984				N/A
**BURNED INTO K41813	K41984				N/A
**BURNED INTO K41813	K41986				N/A

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