



INCIDENT UPDATE

Monashee Complex

This information is current as of: August 17, 2018

Incident Commander (IC) Joel Legasy

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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 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.

Today is the Ontario IMT’s first full day managing this complex.

Yesterday the area within the complex experienced three new fire starts. The Vernon Zone responded to two fires: K42711 and K42696. The IMT responded to the other as part of the Monashee Complex: K42705, Woodward Creek. The IMT responded with air support last night and is further actioning today. An action plan to move ground resources to this incident if required is being considered. The fire is currently 5 hectares.

If there are new starts today, the IMT will collaborate with the Vernon Zone on resourcing options. Sustained action on the complex’s three priority fires as well as response to K42067 Whip Creek and K42705 Woodward Creek will continue.

Weather forecast

We are still experiencing a bit of an unstable airmass, which produces a risk of a late day thunderstorm. It is unlikely that the smoke will clear today. Winds east and light for the morning, then SW 10 to 20 km/h for the afternoon. Risk of brief higher gusts near possible late day thunderstorm. Temperature highs in the low 20 degrees Celsius and a little higher in alpine areas. Winds westerly for the afternoon around 10 to 15 km/h. Risk of brief higher gusts if we do develop a high based thunderstorm. Minimum relative humidity values are from 40 to 50% in the valleys and from 30 to 35% higher elevation areas. These humidity values are moderate to good for this region.

Fire behavior prediction

The slow uptrend in the weather will lead to an increase in fire behaviour, evidenced by the increased number of fires starts and witnessed fire behaviour in previously quiet areas. Possibility of increased starts today and potential for active fire behaviour as smoke lifts.

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.

Yesterday's achievements	Yesterday there was a successful transition from the Parks Canada IMT To the Ontario IMT.
Today's objectives	<p>Today's crew objectives are to continue with strengthening containment lines, building guard and laying hose.</p> <p>The IMT is prioritizing fire analysis today. The team's Fire Behaviour Analyst will be getting accurate sizes of the priority fires and performing assessments and projections. The FBAN will be assessing overnight growth and developing operational objectives for the priority fires.</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
Woodward Creek	K42705	5	OC	N	Full Response – Initial Attack

Kidney Lake	K42472	0.009	OUT	N	N/A
Derry Drainage	K41812	31	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	173	OC	N	Full Response – Modified Fire
*NOW PART OF K42067	K42097				
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	OUT	N	N/A
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	UC	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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