



INCIDENT UPDATE

Old Tom Creek (K52670)

This information is current as of:	August 20 th , 2018
Incident Commander (IC)	Glen Burgess
Contact information	Information Officer: Stephen Kada 250-819-2564 PlacerComIN@gov.bc.ca
Fire camp	Merritt ICP
Incident overview	This fire was discovered on August 15, since then ground crews, helicopters, air tankers and heavy equipment have been assigned to this fire. This wildfire is classified as out of control.
Weather forecast	Extensive smoke. High temperature 22C and low RH near 25%. Winds N 15 - 25 km/h gusting 40 km/h by afternoon. Nocturnal inversion to 1300m with stable layers above. Breakdown temp 22C. There is some uncertainty as to how temperature and RH will be affected by the lingering smoke. Overnight low near 9C and RH recovery to near 65%. Winds N 10 – 20 km/h. A tightening gradient may keep winds up overnight into Monday morning. On Monday/Tuesday an upper low may bring some instability, but moisture is lacking. Temperatures over the next few days will be reaching the low twenties and afternoon RH values near 20%. As the low weakens and tracks across the region on Wednesday, some showers may occur in eastern sections of the region. Temperatures will reach near twenty degrees, and RH values may drop into the 20s. Winds on Monday and Tuesday will continue from the north, but on Wednesday will be light to moderate gusty southwesterly
Fire behavior prediction	Likely poor visibility due to smoke in the morning and throughout the day. The potential for aggressive fire behavior exists and may be difficult to see until nearby. Gusty conditions may eventuate on the fire ground today, which could cause some flare ups and spotting. Crews should be aware of conditions. If smoke lifts, the forecast conditions are more likely to be realized, and fire behavior may intensify. Drier than average conditions will enable slash fuels and understory to be extensively involved and burn with high intensities. Forecast moderate to fresh winds today may drive high rates of spread in all fuel types.
Challenges	Intoxicated members of the public in 4WD's and SUV's disobeying directions and accessing the fire area. Due to poor visibility aviation was used for a short period of time before being grounded for safety.
Yesterday's achievements	With cooler temperatures and an increase in relative humidity there was little fire behaviour allowing crews to make good progress. With the fire activity decreasing overnight there was no growth and containment lines held.
Today's objectives	Additional resources being made available for this fire, crews will be consolidating containment lines and extinguishing the fire as it burns to those lines.
Other	Crews will be operating out the Keremeos Fire Camp to reduce travel time to this incident.

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.