



INCIDENT UPDATE

Monashee Complex

This information is current as of:	August 21, 2018
Incident Commander	Jennifer Young
Contact information	Fire Information Officer Kamloops Fire Centre Phone: 250-554-5965 Email: MonasheeComIN@gov.bc.ca
Incident overview	<p>The Monashee Complex started at 27 fires and now covers 14 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 Monashee Complex has 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.</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>
Weather forecast	Extensive smoke for the valleys and up to mid-slope. Some thinning of smoke in the afternoon especially at higher elevations. Winds Easterly 10 to 15 km/hr going westerly 10 to 15km/hr by afternoon. Local topographical features will dictate wind direction, especially with light winds. Min RH 35. Temperature 22 to 24 (°C).
Fire behavior prediction	<p>The potential for active fire behaviour exists, especially if smoke thins throughout the day. Areas that see sunshine should expect isolated torching with the potential for intermittent crown fire behaviour in C3 fuels* through the afternoon, especially for the southern reaches of the complex. Slash fuels have the potential to exhibit extremely aggressive fire behaviour with substantial rates of spread far beyond the capabilities of ground crews.</p> <p>*C3 fuels are mature jack pine or lodgepole pine</p>
Complex details	<p>HARRIS CREEK (K41800): There were optimal weather conditions last night and, as a result, we were able to conduct a successful burn operation to clean up unburned fuels in the drainage on the north flank of the fire. If conditions remain ideal, BCWS personnel will conduct another burn operation today in order to reinforce containment lines on the north flank on the fire. We are anticipating the Canadian Armed Forces to start working on the Harris Creek fire on Thursday morning, and we anticipate the fire will be in a stage of control that will allow the Armed Forces to conduct mop-up operations with BCWS. There are 35 personnel on site today that are being supported by 9 pieces of heavy equipment. Air support will be available as needed.</p> <p>MABEL CREEK (K41813): Crews are continuing to reinforce containment on the west and north flanks for potential planned ignitions that may take place later this week, should weather conditions allow. The purposes of these ignitions are to reduce risk to firefighter safety as they work to suppress the fire. There are 17 personnel on site today that are supported with 8 pieces of heavy equipment. Air support is available if needed. BCWS ground resources continue to make good progress on this fire.</p> <p>SUGAR MOUNTAIN (K41791): This fire is in a monitored status. BCWS personnel are continuing to assess this wildfire and evaluate where resources will be allocated in the next few days.</p> <p>WOODWARD CREEK (K42705): This wildfire exhibited more active fire behaviour last night, and as a result, we are planning to conduct a burning operation today, if conditions are deemed suitable. This is planned in order to increase containment by bring a fuel-free up to the fire guard. This planned ignition will be visible from the highway and surrounding communities. This wildfire is estimated at 100 hectares and we are anticipating its size to increase once the burn operation takes place. We will have 20 personnel and 8 pieces of heavy equipment on site today.</p>

SPROKTON CREEK (K42448):

This wildfire is responding well to suppression efforts and is now being held. We have 6 personnel working to mop-up on this fire and reinforce the northern part of the guard.

Other

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.

The exceptions to these Area Restrictions are those persons entering the area only in the course of:

- (a) Travelling to or from his or her principle residence, that is not under an evacuation order;
- (b) 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;
- (c) Travelling as a person acting in an official capacity;
- (d) Travelling for the purpose of supporting wildfire suppression activities; or,
- (e) Engaging and/or participating in agricultural activities pertaining to livestock management on private or leased property.

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.

The BC Wildfire Service is preparing for burn operations to take place this week, if conditions are deemed ideal. When the decision is made to conduct burning operations, the fire is usually beyond the initial attack stage. Burning operations are always conducted with the goal of removing the majority of available fuels so that the fire has nothing left to burn. Before planned ignitions can be carried out, environmental conditions such as weather, terrain, fuel loading and potential fire behaviour are always considered.

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.

View an interactive map by clicking [here](#) or visiting www.bcwildfire.ca

Fire Name	Fire Number	Size (ha)	Status	Fire of Note	Action
Mabel Creek	K41813	1,861	OC	Y	Full Response – Sustained
Sugar Mountain	K41791	394	OC	Y	Full Response – Sustained
Harris Creek FSR	K41800	511	OC	Y	Full Response – Sustained
Devil's Creek	K42185	39	OC	N	Full Response – Sustained
Woodward Creek	K42705	100	OC	N	Full Response – 10+ Firefighters

Derry Drainage	K41812	43	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	504	OC	N	Full Response – Modified Fire
East of Tsuius Mountain	K42143	44	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	23	BH	N	Full Response Monitor-Only Fire
Proctor Road	K41809	20	UC	N	N/A
Kidney Lake	K42472	0.009	OUT	N	N/A
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
Spallumcheen Forest	K41772	3	OUT	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	K41986				N/A
**NOW PART OF K42067	K42097				