



INCIDENT UPDATE

Monashee Complex

This information is current as of:

August 22, 2018

Incident Commander

Scott Rennick will be transitioning into the Incident Commander position today at 19:30

Contact information

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Incident overview

The Monashee Complex started at 27 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 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.

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.

Weather forecast

Extensive smoke for the valleys and up to mid-slope and we will see some thinning of smoke in the afternoon, especially at higher elevations. Daytime high temperatures will be in the mid to upper 20's. This morning winds will be easterly at 5-10 km/h and southwesterly at 10-15 km/h by the afternoon. Temperatures will reach 26 degrees and the relative humidity will be near 25%.

Fire behavior prediction

The potential for aggressive fire behaviour exists due to continued drying over last 10 – 17 days. Expect the inversion to break near 25 degrees Celsius in the early afternoon, this may cause localized erratic winds effecting fire behaviour. Expect torching with potential for intermittent crown in C3 fuels* throughout the afternoon, especially at lower elevations and southern fires of the complex. Slash fuels types have the potential for extremely aggressive fire behaviour with high rates of spread.

Beware of what will happen if the smoke clears. Temperatures will rise, relative humidity will drop, and winds will likely increase and become erratic. Fire behavior potential may increase rapidly with high indices.

*C3 fuels are mature jack pine or lodgepole pine

Complex details

HARRIS CREEK (K41800):

We will be conducting a burning operation today, conditions permitting, in order to reinforce containment lines by removing all unburnt fuels between the fire guards and the active fire edge. We are anticipating the Canadian Armed Forces to start working on the Harris Creek fire Thursday morning. As a result, we are preparing the fire to be in a stage of control that will allow the Armed Forces to conduct patrol and mop-up operations with BC Wildfire Service personnel. There are 34 personnel on site today that are being supported by 5 pieces of heavy equipment and heli-bucketing as required.

MABEL CREEK (K41813):

Good progress continues on Mabel Creek wildfire today. Machine guard continues to be constructed to support ground crews direct attack and mop up where the fire comes down to the guard. There are 16 personnel on site today that are supported by 7 pieces of heavy equipment.

SUGAR MOUNTAIN (K41791):

This fire remains in monitored status and has no resources onsite.

WOODWARD CREEK (K42705):

If conditions remain optimal, BCWS will be conducting additional hand and aerial ignition operations today on this wildfire. The objective is to remove all unburnt fuels between the fire guards and the active fire edge on the east and west flanks, in order to reduce fuel between the fire guard and the fires edge. This planned ignition will be visible from the highway and surrounding communities. This wildfire is approximately 120 hectares, but we are anticipating its size to increase once the burn operation is completed. We have 23 personnel on site today that are supported by 10 pieces of heavy equipment.

SPROKTON CREEK (K42448):

This wildfire is responding well to suppression efforts and is now classified as being held. Eleven (11) personnel continue working to mop-up (extinguish hot spots) within the fires perimeter. One water tender remains to assist suppression operations.

*There are five helicopters assigned to this entire complex and will be used interchangeably between wildfires, depending where they are needed.

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.

Road closures: The Mabel Lake FSR and the Kate Creek FSR road closure restrictions will be lifted Thursday August 23, 2018 at 08:00 PDT.

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				