



INCIDENT UPDATE

Monashee Complex

This information is current as of:	August 23, 2018
Incident Commander	Scott Rennick
Contact information	Fire Information Officer Kamloops Fire Centre Phone: 250-554-5965 Email: MonasheeComlN@gov.bc.ca
Incident overview	<p>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.</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	<p>The flat ridge continues to hold through the day. By evening the upper cold front moves into the area, only widely scattered showers expected. The smoke situation will be better once the upper cold front arrives.</p> <p>Today will be sunny and smoky with cloudy periods. Winds will be variable and light for the morning and will become southwesterly at 15 km/h by the afternoon, with gusts up to 30 km/h. There is a possibility of late-day thunderstorm. Increasing convective cloud's by the evening. Winds will shift to northwesterly by the evening.</p> <p>Temperatures will reach a high near 20 degrees with relative humidity near 30%.</p> <p>Friday will bring a mix of sun and cloud. There is a chance of a late day shower and risk of thunderstorms later in the day. The smoke situation should improve by late afternoon as the air mass becomes more unstable. This unstable air mass is expected to also bring gusty afternoon winds. Temperatures on Friday will be around 18 degrees with the relative humidity near 35%.</p>
Fire behavior prediction	<p>The smoke and inversions have kept temperatures higher than forecasted and impeded overnight recoveries in the general complex area. There will be continued drying again today, increasing the potential for aggressive fire behaviour including intermittent crowning where heavy ground fuels or pine and spruce are present. Expect torching with potential for intermittent crown in C3 fuels* with any wind increase or on steep slopes, 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.</p> <p>*C3 fuels are mature jack pine or lodgepole pine.</p>
Complex details	<p><u>HARRIS CREEK (K41800):</u> This wildfire is now estimated at 700 hectares in size. This increase is due to an excursion that took place on the eastern flank. We have 88 personnel on site today and 60 of which are from the Canadian Armed Forces. We also have five pieces of heavy equipment and air support. Today, crews will focus their efforts on reinforcing containment and also where the escape occurred last night on the eastern flank with the support of heavy equipment and air support. The Canadian Armed Forces will be conducting mop-up and patrol operations on this wildfire.</p> <p><u>MABEL CREEK (K41813):</u> This wildfire is estimated at 1861 hectares in size; however, we are anticipating this size to increase once we have better mapping. There are 18 personnel on site today that are being supported by 7 pieces of heavy equipment and air support. Resources will be concentrated on the western flank today. Ground crews will also be directing attention to areas where the fire is burning close to the guard by conducting mop-up operations.</p> <p><u>SUGAR MOUNTAIN (K41791):</u> This wildfire is estimated at 394 hectares in size and there will be five personnel and two pieces of equipment on site today. If conditions are deemed ideal, crews will work on reinforcing containment by carrying out a burn-out between the fire edge and the fire guard.</p>

WOODWARD CREEK (K42705):

This wildfire is currently estimated at 210 hectares in size and will have 22 firefighters on site today that will be supported by 10 pieces of heavy equipment and air support. This wildfire showed an increase in fire activity yesterday evening and is highly visible from the highway and surrounding communities. Ground crews will conduct burn operations on the south and west flank today, conditions permitting, in order to eliminate unburnt fuels. The east and northeast guard will have heavy equipment and air support working together on it today. This wildfire is 3 km from the road and currently burning away from it, in a northwesterly direction. We will have heavy equipment resources on this fire around the clock for equipment to work on containment on the north and east flanks. Good progress has been made on this fire so far today.

SPROKTON CREEK (K42448):

This wildfire is estimated at 23 hectares in size and has seven personnel on site with one piece of heavy equipment. This wildfire is responding well to suppression efforts and is now classified as being held. It is in the last stages of mop-up and patrols will take place in the next few days.

*All air support assigned to this entire complex will be used interchangeably between wildfires, depending on where they are needed.

Other

The Rec Site closures will be lifted for the Cottonwood Beach Rec Site, which is off the Mabel Lake FSR, as well as the Sugar Creek Rec Site, the Cascade Falls Rec Site and the Johnston Bay Rec Reserve, which are all off the Kate Creek FSR. These closures will be lifted at 0800, Thursday, August 23.

Napasis Creek Rec Site, Kate Lake Rec Site, and Sugar Mountain Lookout Rec Site will **remain** closed as they are within the Area Restriction.

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.

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.

The BC Wildfire Service will have burn operations take place on some wildfires within this complex, if conditions are deemed ideal. When the decision is made to conduct these 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	700	OC	Y	Full Response – Sustained
Devil's Creek	K42185	39	OC	N	Full Response – Sustained
Woodward Creek	K42705	210	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				