



# INCIDENT UPDATE

## Monashee Complex

<b>This information is current as of:</b>	August 26, 2018
<b>Incident Commander</b>	Scott Rennick
<b>Contact information</b>	Fire Information Officer Kamloops Fire Centre Phone: 250-554-5965 Email: <a href="mailto:MonasheeComlN@gov.bc.ca">MonasheeComlN@gov.bc.ca</a>
<b>Incident overview</b>	<p>The Monashee Complex, which is in the drainages of Mabel and Sugar lakes from just south of Hwy 6 in the south to Three Valley Gap in the north, started with 27 fires and 12 are still considered active.</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>
<b>Weather forecast</b>	<p>A second stronger upper trough will move into the area Sunday morning bringing cloud, cooler temperatures, gusty southwest winds and a much better chance of showers along with the risk of a thundershower through the late afternoon and evening hours. Rainfall amounts expected to be light (2 to 5mm). Skies will clear Monday morning and high temperatures will rebound back up into the mid to upper teens in the afternoon as a high pressure ridge builds back into the region.</p> <p>Today will bring cloudy skies with patches of smoke. Isolated afternoon showers will become scattered by the evening. Winds will be southwesterly at 5-10 km/h in the morning, and increasing to 10-15 km/h southwesterly with gusts to 25-35 km/h late by the afternoon and evening. There is a risk of an evening thundershower with gusts to 50 km/h. Temperatures will reach a high near 12 degrees and the relative humidity will range between 45 to 55%.</p> <p>Skies will begin to clear Monday morning as a surface high pressure system builds in from the north. Winds will be going west to northwesterly at 10-15 km/h with gusts up to 20-25 km/h. Relative humidity will range between 35-45% and temperatures will be a little warmer, with highs in the mid to upper teens.</p>
<b>Fire behavior prediction</b>	Probability of ignition is 87-90 for most fuels types on all fires during peak burning. Smoke is less likely to have an effect on weather today. In the absence of precipitation, there is continued drying even with the cooler temps and lower relative humidity. There is a potential for aggressive fire behaviour with stronger winds today. The highest potential will be where heavy ground fuels, pine and/or spruce are present. Slash fuels types have the potential for extremely aggressive fire behaviour with high rates of spread.
<b>Complex details</b>	<p>There are 6 helicopters assigned to this entire complex and will be used interchangeably between wildfires, depending where they are needed. The use of helicopters today will depend on flying conditions and whether visibility, due to smoke, improves.</p> <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 106 personnel, 60 of which are from the Canadian Armed Forces, and 10 pieces of heavy equipment on site today. Air support will be available as needed. The Canadian Armed Forces will continue to mop-up and patrol and heavy equipment will continue to build contingency guard on the east flank. Ground crews will conduct a burn-off in order to bring the fire to the guard, if conditions remain ideal.</p> <p><u>MABEL CREEK (K41813):</u> This wildfire is estimated at 1861 hectares in size. There are 13 pieces of heavy equipment on site today that will continue to work on the guard on the west flank.</p> <p><u>SUGAR MOUNTAIN (K41791):</u> This wildfire is estimated at 394 hectares in size and will have 2 pieces of heavy equipment on site today. Heavy equipment will continue working on the fire guard.</p> <p><u>WOODWARD CREEK (K42705):</u> This wildfire is currently estimated at 210 hectares in size and will have 47 personnel on site today that will be supported</p>

by 15 pieces of heavy equipment and air support. Crews will mop-up on the southwest and south flanks. Assessment of trees will be completed by danger tree assessors in work areas prior to crew entry. Firefighters will also focus their efforts on mop-up and patrolling the northeast flank. They will conduct a burn operation on the same northeast flank for the purpose of removing remaining fuel between the fire and the guard, conditions permitting.

## Other

The Rec Site closures have been lifted for the Cottonwood Beach Rec Site, the Cascade Falls Rec Site and the Johnston Bay Rec Reserve which are off the Mabel Lake FSR, as well as the Sugar Creek Rec Site, which is off the Kate Creek FSR.

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 Mabel Lake FSR and the Kate Creek FSR road closure restrictions are now lifted.

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.

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

<b>Full Response-Sustained</b>	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).
<b>Full Response-Modified Fire</b>	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.
<b>Full Response-Monitor-Only fire</b>	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

<b>Out of Control:</b>	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.
<b>Being Held:</b>	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.
<b>Under Control:</b>	Indicates that the fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.
<b>Out:</b>	Indicates that the fire has been extinguished.

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