



INCIDENT UPDATE

Meachen Creek Complex

This information is current as of:	August 26, 2018
Incident Commander (IC)	Joel Legasy
Contact information	Information Officer: Melanie Morin Phone: 819 441-7006 Email: melanie.morin@gov.bc.ca Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Incident Command Post	Teck Cominco
Incident overview	<p>A 22 person Incident Management Team from Ontario assumed command of the Meachen Creek Complex last Sunday night. The complex comprises three incident sites. The sizes and perimeters of these incidents were last updated August 22 by the high-level scan. Due to limited visibility it has been unsafe to create a new perimeter using our helicopters. Maps are available at www.bcwildfire.ca</p> <p><u>The Meachen Creek Fire (N11886)</u> 9073 hectares in size (mapped by high level scan August 22) 22 firefighting personnel on site 3 helicopters are assigned to the complex 10 pieces of heavy equipment</p> <p>This wildfire is located in the Kianuko Provincial Park and the Meachen Creek drainage, approximately 4 kilometres southwest of St. Mary Lake and is classified as Out of Control.</p> <p>Yesterday the presence of the low-pressure system combined with the smoke cover created cooler and more humid conditions. Despite this, due to drought conditions, the fire was exhibiting rank 4 behaviour in the Fiddler Creek area at the end of the day. Visibility was very limited and it was unsafe to use the helicopters before mid-afternoon. The weather station on the fire reported 0.8 mm of rain overnight, however the fire remains active this morning. All containment lines have held in the northeast corner of the perimeter closest to St. Mary Lake. Today crews will continue to work the northeast corner with hose to tie in the containment line to the spine up the Meachen Creek as well as establish helipads. They are beginning to work approximately 50 feet in from the perimeter. Over the last few days the fire has been the most active in the Fiddler Creek area and it is estimated that there was a 40 hectare excursion, causing the fire to cross the creek in certain places. Heavy equipment will be used to put in line on Fiddler Creek in order to tie into the rock bluff and to put a tight line on the excursion across Fiddler Creek. Work will be slow going due to many downed trees. When safe to do so, helicopters with buckets will be used to support the suppression efforts. Maintenance will continue on the structural protection equipment in zones 1 and 2.</p> <p><u>The Lost Dog Complex (N12314, N12419, N12420)</u> 714 hectares in size 23 firefighting personnel on site 3 helicopters are signed to the complex 6 pieces of heavy equipment</p> <p>This wildfire is located approximately 14 kilometres north of Kimberley and is classified as Out of Control.</p>

	<p>The smaller N12420 and N12419 fires are in patrol stage and now considered Under Control. All other resources are affected to N12413. This fire is 90% contained with machine guard. The remaining 10%, located in a bay in the southern portion of the perimeter. Yesterday fire behaviour was quiet and the cooler condition allowed ground crews to continue to make good progress. Today crews will continue working the south flank headed west creating a 50-foot-wide black line. They will also continue working on a 50-foot-wide black line on the north flank towards the east as well as the west flank the with skidders.</p> <p><u>The Mount Dickson Fire (N71602)</u> 1997 hectares in size This fire is being monitored and therefore no ground resources have been assigned 3 helicopters are signed to the complex</p> <p>This wildfire is classified as Out of Control</p> <p>The operations chief was once again unable to assess this fire yesterday due to limited flying visibility, however it is currently not a threat to any values. The fire is approximately one and a half kilometers south of the Meachen Creek fire.</p>
Weather forecast	<p>Sunday: Mix of sun and cloud with increasing cloudiness in the afternoon, smoke will continue to persist. The potential for showers exists with the greatest chance in the afternoon, around 5 mm. Temperatures in the mid to high teens with relative humidity values dipping to around 50%, potentially higher with showers. Generally, a westerly flow, although variable wind direction based on location. Wind speeds sustained in the low to mid twenties with gusts effectively doubling sustained speeds are expected in the afternoon. With the higher relative humidity overnight Saturday, fog is possible Sunday morning which will further reduce the already limited visibility.</p> <p>Monday: Scattered showers could linger early in the morning, clearing to a mix of sun and cloud in the afternoon. Temperatures in the mid to high teens with relative humidity values dipping into the 40-50% range. Winds should moderate from Sunday's speeds into the low to mid teens. Smoke will continue to saturate the air.</p>
Fire behavior prediction	<p>Should the forecast precipitation materialize indices, rates of spread and fire intensity will be substantially reduced. With the absence of precipitation, moderately slow rates of spread on level terrain. Slope influence will lead to moderately fast rates of spread, especially when aligned with the predicted wind speeds. Areas with sufficient duff could exhibit rank above the upper limits of ground resources.</p>
Other	<p>An evacuation order has been issued by the Regional District of East Kootenay in the St. Mary Lake area from the west boundary of the City of Kimberley to the Redding Creek/St. Mary River convergence including St. Mary Lake Road and Lakefront Road.</p> <p>An evacuation alert has been issued by the Regional District of East Kootenay for the entire City of Kimberley Municipal Boundary, and properties in the RDEK directly south and southeast of the City of Kimberley Municipal Boundary.</p> <p>An evacuation alert has been issued by the Regional District of East Kootenay in the Ta Ta Creek area including west of the Kootenay River from 1.5 km south of Farstad Way Road to 2.5 km north of Woods Corner. For more information, please call the RDEK at 250 426-2188 or visit their website at: www.rdek.bc.ca</p>

Wildfire Rank

Rank 1 – Smouldering ground fire: no open flame, white smoke, slow rate of spread.

Rank 2 – Low vigour surface fire: visible open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front, slow rate of spread.

Rank 3 – Moderately vigorous surface fire: organised flame front, occasional candling may be observed, moderate rate of spread.

Rank 4 – Highly vigorous surface fire with torching, or passive crown fire: grey to black smoke, organised surface flame front, moderate to fast rate of spread on the ground, short aerial bursts through the forest canopy, short range spotting.

Rank 5 – Extremely vigorous surface fire or active crown fire: black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and independent spot fire growth.

Rank 6 – A blow up or conflagration; extreme and aggressive fire behaviour: organised crown fire front, long-range spotting and independent spot fire growth, possible fire balls and whirls, violent fire behaviour probable, a dominant smoke column may develop which influences fire behaviour.

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