

## Snowy Mountain (K51238)

<b>This information is current as of:</b>	August 05, 2018
<b>Incident Commander (IC)</b>	Jim Richardson
<b>Contact information</b>	Information Officer: Claire Allen 250 319-2205 PlacerComIN@gov.bc.ca
<b>Fire camp</b>	Princeton Fire Base
<b>Incident overview</b>	<p>This wildfire is estimated at 10, 911 hectares in size and is classified as out of control. There are 12 helicopters assigned to this complex that are being interchanged amongst the two wildfires (Snowy Mountain and Placer Mountain).</p> <p>The fire remains to the west of Chopaka Road, but is burning in a southward direction and the south flank is approximately 3 km from the U.S. border. The BC Wildfire Service Incident Management Team assigned to the Snowy Mountain Fire is working collaboratively with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, given the fire's proximity to the border and expectation that the fire will continue to move south if prevailing strong winds come from the north.</p>
<b>Weather forecast</b>	<p>Today we will see mainly sunny skies with a 20% chance of afternoon thunderstorms. The fire saw cooler temperatures and some spotty precipitation yesterday, with winds shifting from the north to the south. Today, northwesterly winds are expected to gust up to 10-20 km/h, but are anticipated to switch to a northeast direction by this afternoon. The precipitation raised the minimum relative humidity yesterday, and calmer overnight winds in conjunction with work by BC Wildfire Service night crews alongside the Keremeos Fire Department resulted in no additional fire growth last night.</p>
<b>Fire behavior prediction</b>	<p>Fire will be either a creeping or running surface fire when in timber and open areas. Where wind and slope align, fire behaviour will exhibit a surface to intermittent crown behaviour. Smouldering fire behaviour expected on this wildfire, where precipitation occurred.</p>
<b>Challenges</b>	<p>Crews continue to face steep topography. This steep terrain is inoperable in some areas and poses a safety risk to firefighting personnel. Crews are being strategically placed where it is safe and where suppression objectives can be met. The presence of rattlesnakes in the area brings further challenges to crews.</p>
<b>Yesterday's achievements</b>	<p>Crews worked on the southeast flank to protect adjacent properties and on the north flank to tie the fire perimeter into rocky slopes to keep it from wrapping around the mountain.</p>
<b>Today's objectives</b>	<p>Crews are supported by bucketing helicopters as they work to conduct burn-offs as safe conditions allow to remove fuel from the slopes adjacent to properties in order to halt the forward progression of the fire. Structural protection specialists will continue to assess properties on the valley bottom, moving south along the Chopaka Road down to the U.S. border. Crews will work on the southeast flank to protect adjacent properties, and continue working to tie the fire perimeter on the north flank into the rock slopes in order to keep it from wrapping around the mountain towards the Keremeos area.</p>
<b>Other</b>	<p>Smoke is drifting from the incident to adjacent areas, and the smoke column and open flame is visible from the surrounding communities. An Area Restriction Order was put in effect noon, July 28, 2018 and on August 03, 2018 for Crown land in the vicinity of Placer Lake to protect public safety and the safety of firefighting personnel.</p>

### 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.