

Snowy Mountain (K51238)

This information is current as of:	August 07, 2018
Incident Commander (IC)	Jim Richardson
Contact information	Information Officer: Claire Allen 250 319-2205 PlacerComIN@gov.bc.ca
Fire camp	Princeton Fire Base
Incident overview	This wildfire is estimated at 12,039 hectares in size and is classified as out of control. 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. There are 89 firefighters on site today that are supported by 8 pieces of heavy equipment. There are 11 helicopters allocated to the entire complex that are being interchanged amongst the two wildfires (the other fire being Placer Mountain). There is a mass water distributor assigned to this incident on a trial basis, which distributes more water with increased efficiency due to a higher PSI. In addition, the BC Wildfire Service also has structural protection specialists working on this wildfire.
Weather forecast	There will be mainly sunny skies today, with the exception of smoke lingering in the valley bottom. The valley bottom will experience northwesterly winds gusting 10-20 km/h and temperatures around 35 degrees. For higher elevations, temperatures will reach 26 degrees and winds will be light variable blowing at 5-15 km/h. The upper ridge will persist Wednesday through Friday, which will increase temperatures at all elevations.
Fire behavior prediction	Fire behaviour today might exhibit an active surface fire, with candling and torching in the afternoon, especially in closed timber that's on a slope.
Challenges	Crews continue to face difficult 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.
Yesterday's achievements	Crews focused their efforts on mopping-up around key areas and constructing hose lay in the northeast corner. In addition, firefighters also initiated a patrol, in order to seek out hot spots to extinguish.
Today's objectives	The BC Wildfire Service would like to inform the public that crews have begun a burn-off on the southeast perimeter of the Snowy Mountain wildfire. Be advised that this burn operation will be visible from the surrounding area. This burn-off is being conducted with the purpose of increasing containment lines in order to remove upslope fuels to halt the fires further progression to the south. The burn-off will be expanded south into the ravine, if safe conditions allow, to try and secure the southern perimeter. Nocturnal winds caused downslope growth of this fire and in order to prevent it from encroaching on properties at the valley bottom, this burn operation was started early today.
Other	Be advised that smoke is drifting from the incident to adjacent areas, and the smoke column and open flame is visible from the surrounding communities.

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.