



INCIDENT UPDATE

Syringa Complex – September 11, 2018

This information is current as of: September 11, 2108

Incident Commander (IC) Scott Elliott

Contact information
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Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. only

Fire camp Syringa Camp on Deer Creek Road

Incident overview
A nine-person Incident Management Team (IMT) has assumed command of this complex from the outgoing IMT. The Syringa Complex includes the Syringa Creek, Deer Creek, Bulldog Mountain, N. Bowman Creek and Michaud Creek wildfires. Twelve helicopters are currently assigned to the complex. Additional aviation support is available, as required and as visibility allows.

Syringa Creek (N52548)
3,112 hectares in size (estimated)
80 personnel on site
This wildfire is classified as Out of Control

Deer Creek (N52489)
3,421 hectares in size (estimated)
75 personnel on site
4 pieces of heavy equipment and 4 water tenders
This wildfire is classified as Out of Control

Bulldog Mountain (N52497)
2,125 hectares in size (estimated)
58 personnel on site
4 pieces of heavy equipment
This wildfire is classified as Out of Control

N. Bowman Creek (N52723)
548 hectares in size (estimated)
This wildfire is classified as Out of Control

Michaud Creek (N53039)
11 hectares in size (estimated)
This wildfire is classified as Out of Control

The N. Bowman Creek and Michaud Creek wildfires are considered monitored fires which means that they are being observed and assessed to determine the appropriate response option to minimize social disruption and/or significant impacts on values and resources, while achieving beneficial ecological, economic or resource management objectives.

Weather forecast
A temporary weather site has been installed within the complex to track “site-specific” weather to improve fire behaviour predictions. Rain gauges have also been installed at each of the incidents. Cloudy with sunny periods and possible early morning fog patches are forecasted for today. 60% chance of showers and a risk of thundershowers in the afternoon. Variable wind

	<p>direction from southwest to northwest. Gusty erratic winds up to 60 km/h with local thunderstorms. The forecast is calling for an even better chance of rain on Wednesday. Winds will shift to a more northerly direction. Thurs. Fri. and Sat are still dominated by a trough feature which will bring cooler, more humid conditions and additional chance of spotty rain/thunderstorms.</p>
Fire behavior prediction	<p>The Castlegar area has received well below the expected annual precipitation this summer. June was closest to normal (70% of normal), but July (17% of normal) and August (9% of normal) were well under. As of mid-July, this area surpassed record dryness levels in forest materials. The deep organic forest floor layers are very dry and any down and dead woody material like logs and branches are readily consumed by fire. This can contribute to the intensity or heat output of fires. It can also mean that more water, personnel and time is required to fully contain fires in these areas. The current forecast, that includes cooler trending temperatures and an increased chance of precipitation, is beneficial as it can help reduce fire activity. As the fall season begins, the length of time that fires can burn during the day is shortened as the sun sets earlier and rises later, giving firefighters an advantage. Fires cannot spread as far in one day as they could during longer summer days.</p>
Challenges	<p>These fires are burning in challenging terrain and as noted above, in very dry forest fuels.</p>
Yesterday's achievements	<p>Syringa Creek (N52548) Successful small-scale hand ignition operations occurred on the southeast corner and along sections of the south flank yesterday. Bucketing helicopters provided support to burn off operations and also successfully worked portions along the southeast flank.</p> <p>Deer Creek (N52489) Crews continued to successfully remove unburnt fuels with small-scale hand ignition operations yesterday. Danger tree assessment and falling occurred and crews along with heavy equipment reinforced established guards. Bucketing helicopters were also used effectively.</p> <p>Bulldog Mountain (N52497) Crews continued to make good progress on containment of the northwest flank and continued to mop up the recent successful hand ignition operation. Good progress was made on the contingency machine guard construction around Renata.</p> <p>N. Bowman Creek (N52723) & Michaud Creek (N53039) These fires continue to burn remotely and are not currently posing a threat to communities or structures.</p>
Today's objectives	<p>Syringa Creek (N52548) Aviation resources will continue to provide support as required and as visibility allows today. Small-scale hand ignition operations will likely continue today to remove unburnt fuels to increase containment in priority areas. Crews continue to construct hand guard to tie into natural features on the southeastern flank. Structural Protection Units (SPUs) are operational.</p> <p>Deer Creek (N52489) Small-scale hand ignition operations will likely continue today to remove unburnt fuels to increase containment. Aviation resources will continue to provide support as required. Danger tree assessment and falling will also continue today. Crews and heavy equipment will reinforce established guard and continue to hold existing containment lines on the south and west flanks. Mop up and patrol will also continue today.</p> <p>Bulldog Mountain (N52497) Crews will continue to mop up the recent successful hand ignition operation on the northwest flank. Contingency machine guard around Renata will continue today. Crews will also continue to patrol the southeast flank today. Structural Protection Crews from local fire departments, working out of the RDCK continue to maintain SPU units in Renata today.</p> <p>N. Bowman Creek (N52723) & Michaud Creek (N53039) These fires will be monitored today. If there were to be a significant change in fire behavior, crews would work to protect identified values in the area.</p>

Other**Area Restrictions and Forest Service Road (FSR) Closures:**

- An area restriction is in effect for the area, north of Rialto FSR, Broad Water Road, Deer Park FSR, up to Mount Stanley and west of Oak Road. The public is still able to access the Syringa Creek Provincial Park at this time; however, this area does remain on evacuation alert.
- A voluntary trail closure is in effect on the Columbia Western Rail Trail starting on the west end of Arrow Lake Drive south of the Hugh Keenleyside Dam and at the Paulson Detour Road and rail trail intersection “trailhead” kiosk.
- An amended area restriction is in effect for area including Renata, south of Dog Creek and Faith Creek south to Dog Road.

Evacuation Information

- An evacuation **alert** is in effect for Syringa Provincial Park and southeast along Lower Arrow Lake to the Hugh Keenleyside Dam in Robson.
- An evacuation **alert** is in place for the Deer Park and Broadwater Road area.
- An evacuation **alert** is in effect for the area including the community of Brooklyn and all properties to the southeast to Shields Point.
- An evacuation **order** remains in effect for the area northwest of Brooklyn, including Renata.

For the latest evacuation information please contact the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) at 250 352-7701 or visit their website at rdck.ca

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