



INCIDENT UPDATE

Syringa Complex – September 12, 2018

This information is current as of: September 12, 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)
3,193 hectares in size (estimated)
123 personnel on site
This wildfire is classified as Out of Control

Deer Creek (N52489)
4,046 hectares in size (estimated)
81 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)
51 personnel on site
2 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. Today’s forecast calls for cloudy conditions with sunny breaks, possible early morning fog patches and a 70% chance of late morning and afternoon showers. Winds will be variable

	and will be dependent on local storms. Gusty, erratic winds can be associated with local thunderstorms.
Fire behavior prediction	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 is beneficial as cool temperatures and precipitation 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.
Challenges	These fires are burning in challenging terrain and as noted above, in very dry forest fuels. Recent rainfall may result in wet and slippery conditions for ground crews. The recent precipitation may also limit the use of burn off operations as a tactic for containment.
Yesterday's achievements	<p>Syringa Creek (N52548) Crews continued to mop up the recent successful hand ignition burn off operation on the southwest corner yesterday. Crews were also able to burn off sections of unburnt fuel on the southeast flank yesterday. Crews also established two additional helicopter pads yesterday.</p> <p>Deer Creek (N52489) Heavy equipment made progress on a section of the northern flank in the Twobit Creek drainage. Crews continued to mop up sections of the southern flank. Heavy equipment also made progress working on the eastern flank.</p> <p>Bulldog Mountain (N52497) Crews were able to connect the contingency machine guard around Renata yesterday. Good progress continues to be made containing the northwest and southeast flanks.</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) Crews will work to extend hand guard on the eastern flank to tie into natural features and an existing road. Crews will continue to mop up and patrol the southeast corner and southern flank. Aviation resources will provide support as required and as visibility allows. Structural Protection Units (SPUs) are operational.</p> <p>Deer Creek (N52489) Machine guard will continue to be constructed today on sections of both the northern and eastern flanks. Mop up and patrol will continue on the southern flank. Danger tree assessment and falling will continue. Aviation resources will provide support as required and as visibility allows. Small-scale hand ignition operations may occur depending on suitable weather and site conditions. Structural Protection Units (SPUs) are operational and those that are no longer required will be demobilized today.</p> <p>Bulldog Mountain (N52497) Heavy equipment will continue to wrap up construction of the contingency guard around Renata today. Crews will continue to mop up and patrol the northwest and southeast containment lines today. Bucketing helicopters will continue to support as required and as visibility allows. 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.
- The evacuation **order** for the area northwest of Brooklyn, including Renata, has been downgraded to an evacuation **alert**.
- The evacuation **alert** for the area including the community of Brooklyn and all properties to the southeast to Shields Point has been rescinded.

For the latest detailed 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