



INCIDENT UPDATE

Old Tom Creek (K52670)

This information is current as of: September 4, 2018

Incident Commander (IC) Glen Burgess

Contact information
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Fire camp Keremeos

Incident overview
This fire was discovered on August 15, since then ground crews, helicopters, air tankers and heavy equipment have been assigned to this fire. The current size of the fire is estimated at 1,087ha. This wildfire is classified as Being Held. Community members can still expect to see smoke within the perimeter over the coming weeks. This is common with large wildfires and will continue until the region receives significant rainfall or snowfall. If smoke is seen coming from well within a fire's perimeter and the area is surrounded by black, burned material, this is typically not a concern.

Weather forecast
A building upper ridge along the Pacific coast will result in temperatures warming near two degrees and lower afternoon RH values. Mainly sunny and high temperature 14 C and low RH near 35%. Winds E-NE 10-20 km/h. There is some chance that winds may be more variable in direction. Nocturnal inversion to 1200 metres with a breakdown temperature of 14 C.
Tonight:
Overnight low near 2 C and RH recovery to near 85%. Winds light E-NE
Outlook:
The ridge flattens Wednesday and Thursday and the flow becomes more zonal. Temperatures will reach the low to mid-twenties and light northerly winds Wednesday will become light southwesterly on Thursday. Friday will see similar conditions.

Fire behavior prediction
Light showers yesterday have had minimal impact on the fuel indices. DMC and DC are unchanged, and FFMC is likely to bounce back to previous values within a day or two. Lighter wind speeds are likely to contain fire spread mainly to the surface fuels on flatter terrain, with slow to moderate rates of spread possible in the standing forest fuels. Torching and candling may still occur on steeper up slopes. Faster rates of spread may still be expected in the slash and grass areas.

Challenges
Steep slopes are creating challenging terrain for crews. Crews are currently moving into remote areas of the fire and require transport by helicopter, which can be time consuming. West flank has seen some growth over night pushing further to west making the heli pad inaccessible. Some areas of the fire are unsafe for crews.

Yesterday's achievements
Ground crews made progress on the northeast end containment line which will now potentially allow for mop up and patrol status.

Today's objectives
Crews target to complete mop up to 50 ft on excursion west of Old Tom Creek while continuing mop up in drainage on the south east corner.
Crews are also aiming to complete mop up east of Old Tom Creek, tying in with the cliff above Hwy 3. Danger tree assessments and falling is ongoing. Crews will continue to patrol the north flank and extinguish any hot spots within 100 ft of perimeter and patrol the southern flank to 50 ft of perimeter.

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.