

August 14, 2022



FIRE NAME

Keremeos Creek (K50863)

FIRE SIZE: 6948 hectares (estimated) **FIRE STATUS:**

Out of Control

K50863—August 13 Ford Lake

RESOURCES:

329 wildland firefighters are assigned to this fire working with an additional 49 structural protection personnel from fire departments across BC for a total crew complement of 378 firefighters. 18 helicopters and 53 pieces of heavy equipment are also assigned.

UPDATES:

Status: Fire behaviour remains relatively stable due to moderate temperatures and increased humidity Friday and Saturday. On August 12, sections of the fire received between 2 and 6 mm of rain. This reduced fire behaviour, permitted crews to do more direct attack and progress containment lines. A shift in wind direction could increase fire activity today, August 14. Temperatures will begin to rise steadily today with moderate daytime humidity and good overnight recoveries. A ridge of high pressure will settle over the province, earlier next week and daytime temperatures are ex-

Assignments: The fire is currently stable along the western side of Highway 3A, and operational objectives remain mostly the same. On August 10, an aerial infrared scan was completed in priority areas along the Highway 3 corridor and Green Mountain Road. Another ariel scan will be conducted in coming days to assess hot spots near fire perimeter. Wildland firefighters and structural protection crews continue to locate and extinguish hotspots.

West:

- The Northwest flank continues to be the most active section of the fire, suppression efforts are challenged by steep terrain that is inaccessible to crews and heavy equipment.
- From Keremeos Creek Road to Green Mountain Road crews are extinguishing hot spots and removing combustible fuel 25 foot in from the fire perimeter, a process known as blacklining.
- Along Olalla Creek Road and Highway 3A crews are patrolling and establishing a 100 foot blackline in from the fire perimeter.

East:

- Danger Tree Accessors and fallers continue to patrol this area of the fire and ensure areas are safe within the fire perimeter.
- Crews continue to patrol and mop-up along the fire perimeter between Sheep Creek Road and Highway 3A.

Structure Protection:

- Structure protection personnel continue to maintain established structure protection systems at Apex Mountain and the Green Mountain Road.
- Tenders will continue to restock relay tanks used for crews and fire suppression activities.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Information Officer: Karley Desrosiers and Paula Walbauer | Hours: 0800-2000

Phone: (778) 362-4872 | Email: BCWS.KeremeosCreekINFO@gov.bc.ca



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EVACUATION ALERTS AND ORDERS:

BC Wildfire Service has worked with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Village of Keremeos, Penticton Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band and Okanagan Nation Alliance to provide information to keep residents safe.

Recommendations for Evacuation Orders and Alerts are based on current and forecasted conditions to proactively keep people safe, and so BCWS can actively work the fire. For more information about Evacuation Orders and Alerts go to: <u>Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen</u>, <u>Village of</u> <u>Keremeos</u>, and <u>Penticton Indian Band</u>.

Safety

The BC Wildfire Service reminds members of the public that the Keremeos Creek wildfire is an active worksite and they should exercise caution at all times while travelling in the area and along the Highway 3A corridor. We would like to ask all residents that if they are driving on ANY roads in the vicinity of the Keremeos Creek Wildfire to slow down. Crews and equipment are being moved using roads in the area. Please slow down and stay alert! Before entering any area affected by a wildfire, members of the public should be aware that significant safety hazards may be present.



August 14—Keremeos Creek Wildfire

Trees that have been damaged by fire might be unstable and could fall. Ash pits can be hard to detect and can remain hot long after the flames have died down. Nearby communities can still expect to see smoke within the fire's perimeter over the coming weeks. This is common with large wildfires, and smoke will continue to be visible until there is significant rainfall at the site. Smoke appearing from well within the fire perimeter and burned material is common. However, smoke that rises from green, unburned fuel or from outside of fire's perimeter should be reported. To report a wildfire or open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or *5555 on a cellphone.



BC Wildfire App:

The official BC Wildfire Service mobile app is available for free download in the <u>App Store</u> and on <u>Google Play</u>.

Additional information is provided in the <u>BCWS Mobile App Reference</u>

Spot a wildfire, smoke or illegal fire activity? Call 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on your cellphone.

