



OKANAGAN COMPLEX

**Thomas Creek
(K51794)**

FIRE SIZE
10,250 hectares (estimate)

FIRE STATUS
Out of Control



Early morning fire behaviour on the Thomas Creek wildfire—July 27, 2021.

Generally, peak fire behaviour occurs in the late afternoon when temperatures are at their warmest during the day.

This fire was first discovered on Sunday, July 11, 2021 and is approximately 3 kilometres northeast of Okanagan Falls.

CONDITIONS:

Smoky conditions will continue today into the afternoon. As temperatures peak in the afternoon fire suppression efforts will be challenged, particularly on the north flank of the fire.

OBJECTIVES:

Volatile fire behaviour and growth continues to be observed along the north flank in the Derenzy and McLean Clan Lake area. The new size estimate reflects the growth observed in these areas. This growth did not impact the control objectives set out for this flank of the fire.

Due to poor visibility and increased fire activity heavy equipment withdrew from the north/northwest flank yesterday afternoon. Helicopters are continuing to

deliver water along the north flank to ensure the fire does not spread into the drainage north of Christie Mountain. Where it is safe to do so, ground crews are continuing to focus on suppression efforts along the south flank.

Yesterday, crews continued to make good progress along the south guard and will continue to look for opportunities to complete additional small hand ignitions along these guards. This technique is frequently used to remove unburnt fuels along control lines to help further secure the fire perimeter. Heavy machinery is working to establish containment lines in the southeast corner of the fire to support crew progress along the south flank .

RESOURCES:

- Firefighters** – 21 and 36 military personnel
- Support Staff** – seven
- Danger tree assessors/fallers** – eight
- Heavy Equipment** – 22
- Helicopters** – six assigned
- Incident Management Team**

EVACUATION ALERTS & ORDERS:

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has issued an Evacuation Alert for 724 properties in Electoral Area "D," as well as an Evacuation Order for 8 properties in Electoral Area "D." More information is available here: <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/>

AREA RESTRICTION:

In the interest of public and responder safety, the Area Restriction Order in the vicinity of the Thomas Creek wildfire was updated on July 27, 2021. The size of the Area Restriction Order reflects the need to protect the public in areas where there are ongoing suppression activities. For more information, please review the [Thomas Creek Area Restriction Order](#) information bulletin and [map](#).

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

71W22KC - Okanagan Complex Information Section

Telephone: 778-694-8325 | Email: BCWS.Okanagan.Complex.Info@gov.bc.ca





OKANAGAN COMPLEX

Brenda Creek
(K51924)

FIRE SIZE
824 hectares (estimate)

FIRE STATUS
Out of Control

This fire was first discovered on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 and is located south of the Okanagan Connector (Highway 97C), approximately 40 kilometres west of West Kelowna.

CONDITIONS:

Smoky conditions will continue today into the afternoon when some smoke may lift, causing changes in winds and increasing fire behaviour in some areas. As temperatures peak in the afternoon fire suppression efforts may be challenged.

OBJECTIVES:

Structural protection remains in place on high value resources, including on the cabins in the Headwater Creek area. Crews will continue to patrol and extinguish hot spots along the powerlines.

Northeast of the fire perimeter crews are working on 100% mop up on a small excursion outside of the guard. Crews are patrolling along the guard south of the fire perimeter and utilizing a skidder to extinguish hot spots, as well as completing a 25-foot blackline along the Brenda Lake West Road once Danger Tree Assessments have been completed in the area.

AREA RESTRICTION:

The BC Wildfire Service implemented an Area Restriction Order in the vicinity of the Brenda Creek wildfire on July 17, 2021. This Area Restriction Order will remain in place until noon, October 15, 2021 or until it is rescinded. The size of the Area Restriction Order reflects the need to protect the public in areas where there are ongoing fire suppression activities. For more information, please review the [Brenda Creek Area Restriction Order](#) information bulletin and [map](#).



Crews have been making good progress on the Brenda Creek wildfire over the past several days. The established control lines have held despite several days of increased fire behaviour.

RESOURCES:

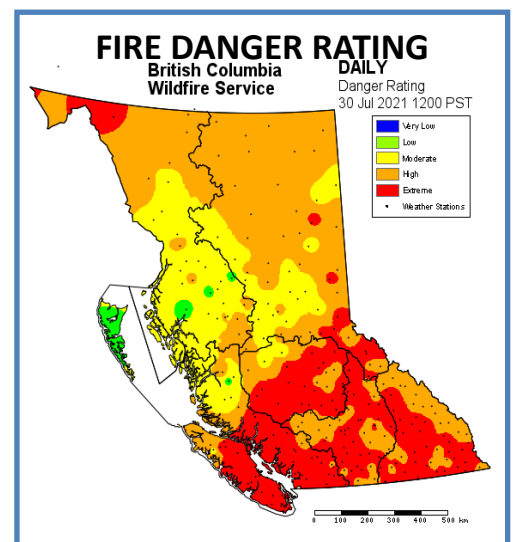
- Firefighters** – 33
- Heavy Equipment** – 13
- Support staff** – two
- Danger tree assessors/fallers** – two
- Helicopters** – three assigned
- Incident Management Team**

EVACUATION ALERTS & ORDERS:

Evacuation Orders and Alerts have been issued by:

The [Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen](#) (RDOS), and;

The [Regional District Central Okanagan](#) (RDCO)



ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

71W22KC - Okanagan Complex Information Section

Telephone: 778-694-8325 | Email: BCWS.Okanagan.Complex.Info@gov.bc.ca





White Rock Lake
(K61884)

FIRE SIZE
24,000 hectares (estimate)

FIRE STATUS
Out of Control

This fire was first discovered on Sunday, July 13, 2021 and is approximately 56 kilometres northeast of Merritt.

CONDITIONS:

Conditions on site are extremely smoky, which is hampering the ability for aircraft to fly and challenging suppression efforts. Heavy smoke in the area is also impacting hydro lines. As a result, power outages have occurred and may continue to do so.

Today, very high temperatures and dry conditions will continue to bring elevated fire behaviour. Isolated showers with a slight risk of thunderstorms this afternoon may bring variable wind shifts and further hamper suppression efforts. Fire growth is expected to continue the east and northeast. Crews are continuing to work towards safe, achievable operational objectives under extremely adverse conditions. Public and first responder safety remains BC Wildfire Service's top priority. To protect the safety of the public and first responders, the BC wildfire Service will continue to evaluate the need for further evacuation order and alert recommendations .

RESOURCES:

Firefighters – 117 (including 100 firefighters from Quebec)

Support Staff – 12

Heavy Equipment – 38

Danger tree assessors/fallers – nine

Helicopters – eight assigned

Incident Management Team

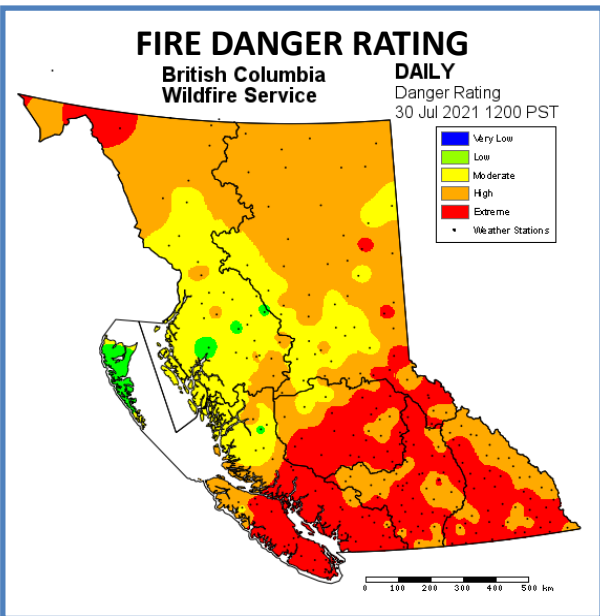
STRUCTURE PROTECTION:

Personnel – 50 (including 40 structural firefighters from ten fire departments)

Six personnel are remaining on site through the night to provide structure protection continuity. Structural protection personnel will continue to assess and prioritize critical infrastructure and properties, working from Monte Lake towards the Falkland Corridor via Highway 97.

AREA RESTRICTION ORDER:

The BC Wildfire Service has implemented an Area Restriction Order in the vicinity of the White Rock Lake wildfire. The size of the Area Restriction Order reflects the need to protect the public in areas where there are ongoing fire suppression activities. For more information, please review the [White Rock Lake Area](#)



EVACUATION ALERTS & ORDERS:

Evacuation Alerts and Orders have been implemented by:

The [Thompson-Nicola Regional District](#) (TNRD),

The [Columbia-Shuswap Regional District](#) (CSRD),

The [Regional District of North Okanagan](#) (RDNO),

The [Okanagan Indian Band](#) (OKIB) and;

The [Regional District of Central Okanagan](#) (RDCO).

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

North Okanagan Complex Information Section

Telephone: 778-694-8325 | Email: BCWS.NorthOkanaganComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca





White Rock Lake
(K61884)

FIRE SIZE
24,000 hectares (estimate)

FIRE STATUS
Out of Control

OBJECTIVES:

The BC Wildfire Service continues to work with industry partners to establish and reinforce control lines, and to protect critical infrastructure. Local industry knowledge is invaluable to operational success. Where feasible, heavy equipment is working towards developing secondary containment lines.

On the northwest flank of the fire, crews will continue patrolling the machine guard that was built next to the powerline and work on extinguishing any spots that may have crossed the guard. Progress is being made on constructing a machine guard to connect into the Monte-Pratt Road. Crews are supporting the construction of this guard with hose lay and a water tender.

Crews will continue to work eastward on the southwest flank to secure the perimeter and construct machine guard. Patrolling and mop up of any hot spots along the guard will occur. Mop up around the Cress Creek area on the south flank of the fire will be ongoing over the weekend.

If conditions remain favourable over the coming days, additional planned ignitions will occur along the southeast flank to fully bring the fire down to the Salmon River FSR. Planned ignitions along this flank are being carried out using Plastic Sphere Dispensers (PSD). PSDs accurately deploy golf-ball sized plastic spheres onto the landscape. Through a chemical reaction, the spheres ignite shortly after they reach the forest floor. This technique allows personnel to ignite manageable amounts of fuel in a timely and accurate manner. Air support will continue to be utilized for the duration of planned ignition operations, as required.

Northeast of the fire perimeter, crews are working along a stretch of machine guard to contain fire that comes down the ridge line and constructing a fuel free handguard to tie together pre-established control lines along this flank. To help secure the control line, crews will be using low intensity hand ignitions to remove any remaining combustible fuels between the control lines and the existing fire perimeter. This technique is frequently used to extend the amount of non-combustible fuels ahead of the main fire, helping to further secure the control line.

A ground-based retardant unit continues to reinforce control lines east of the fire perimeter. This unit is a large truck that can apply the same type of retardant used by airtankers to help slow the spread of the fire, allowing equipment and crews time and space to safely work along pre-constructed control lines. To ensure personnel safety, crews are being supported by danger tree assessors/fallers.

Eight helicopters are assigned to the White Rock Lake wildfire and will be delivering water to problematic areas of the fire to support ground suppression efforts. Aircraft and other resources may be reallocated from day to day within the complex as priorities shift.



Extreme fire behaviour has been observed on the White Rock Lake wildfire over the past several days.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

North Okanagan Complex Information Section

Telephone: 778-694-8325 | Email: BCWS.NorthOkanaganComplexInfo@gov.bc.ca

