

Ulkatcho Wildfire Update 20 July 2023

Kappan Complex (C51571, C51562, C11405, G41158, G41189, G41165, VA1167, VA1456, VA1462, VA1735)

As of July 18, the Unified Command Pacific Northwest Team 2 has assumed command of the Kappan Complex 10 incidents. The Incident Commander for all 10 fires is Jason Loomis, and the Information Officer is Jessica Mack.

Weather

Minimal rain yesterday

Today

- Higher temperatures today resulted in increased fire behaviour
- Relative humidity was lower this afternoon as temperatures increased
- Upper ridge continues to move east, creating an unstable airmass and higher winds
- Lighting activity expected this afternoon

Tomorrow

- Upper ridge moves further east and it will be cooler behind a weak front with W-NW winds
- Temperatures expected to drop up to 5C in the afternoon and lightning activity is expected with minimal rain

Saturday

- Expect increased winds – 20 G40-50, lower temperatures and higher humidities with risk of thundershowers

General

The incident management team has established and organized the 10 fires into 3 branches:

- Coastal Branch:
 - VA1456 (Trumpeter Mountain/Lonesome Lake)
 - VA1735 (Young Creek)
 - VA1462 (Elbow Lake)
- Gatcho Branch:
 - C51571 (Anahim Peak)
 - G41158 (Gatcho Lake)
 - G41189 (Moose Lake)
 - G41165 (Lily Lake)
 - C11405 (Corkscrew Creek)
 - VA1167 (Grizzly Creek)
- Satah Branch
 - Satah (C51562)

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GATCHO BRANCH

Anahim Peak (C51571)

- Date of Detection: July 11, 2023
- Location: NE of Anahim Peak
- Size: 1,957 hectares (estimate)
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Lightning

Resources:

- IMT
- 73 firefighters 8 support personnel
- 7 pieces of heavy Equipment, 2 water tenders

Operations:

- Yesterday, due to increased winds and warmer and drier conditions, there was increased fire activity, on the north/northwestern flank of the fire that crossed control lines.
- Ground crews are working along the Dean River to establish a fuel free hand guard.
- Ground crews on the west division will continue to mop up the Beeftrail road and east of the Dean River.
- Guard construction has been completed on the south flank of the wildfire.
- Today, an aerial ignition planned on the northeastern tip of the wildfire was not carried out due to site and weather conditions.
- Heavy equipment will construct guard on the northwest top and tie into completed guard.
- Assessments are underway to plan for tying in control lines into natural features on the northwest flank.
- Structural Protection crews have pre-emptively assessed values in the area, and have set up and are maintaining structural protection apparatus where required.

Evacuation:

- The Regional District of Cariboo Regional District (CRD) has issued an [Evacuation Order and Alert](#).

Structure Protection:

- Refer to specific document for details.

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Gatcho Lake (G41158)

- Date of Detection: July 6, 2023
- Location: 1.5km SE of Gatcho Lake
- Size: 4,306 hectares
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Lightning

Lily Lake (G41165)

- Date of Detection: July 6, 2023
- Location: Lily Lake
- Size: 943 hectares
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Lightning

Moose Lake (G41189)

- Date of Detection: July 7, 2023
- Location: 7 km E/SE of Moose Lake
- Size: 2,580 hectares
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Lightning

Anticipate significant increase in reported size once a GPS track is completed – est. about 20,000 ha for all three fires (Gatcho Lake, Lily Lake, Moose Lake).

Resources:

- No resources are on these fires at present but they are monitored daily

Operations:

- Resource sharing will be ongoing with Prince George, Cariboo and Coastal Fire Centres.
- Structural protection personnel are continuing to assess and triage where structure protection will be setup.
- Aggressive fire behaviour is expected to continue through the next several days.
- The number one priority for the BC Wildfire Service is ensuring the safety of first responders, and crews have been pulled back on fires that are exhibiting dangerous fire activity.
- At present the main objective is keeping transportation corridors open for access and egress to support fire operations and evacuation routes.
- Aerial assessments will continue to occur to monitor the wildfire.

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Corkscrew Creek (C11405)

- Date of Detection: July 9, 2023
- Location: 2.4 km NW Corkscrew Creek
- Size: 476 hectares
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Lightning

Resources:

- No resources are on this fire at present but it is monitored regularly

Grizzly Creek (VA1167)

- Date of Detection: July 6, 2023
- Location: 5 km N of Grizzly Creek
- Size: 93 hectares
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Lightning

Resources:

- No resources are on this fire at present but it is monitored regularly

SATAH BRANCH

Satah (C51562)

- Date of Detection: July 11, 2023
- Location: N of Satah Mountain
- Size: 6,500 hectares
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Lightning

Resources:

- 29 firefighters
- 7 pieces of heavy equipment, 3 water tenders and equipment supervisor

Operations:

- Low to moderate fire activity being displayed on the wildfire earlier today
- On the S flank, heavy equipment is building control lines close to the fire perimeter
- On the N and NE flanks the main control line and contingency guard is being planned - terrain is extremely rocky in the area.
- Preserving FN values is ongoing and remains a priority.
- Processed decks of logs have been fully guarded.

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COASTAL BRANCH

Young Creek (VA1735)

- Date of Detection: July 15, 2023
- Location: Young Creek
- Size: 2,518 hectares
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Lightning

Resources:

- 46 firefighters and 2 support staff
- Several pieces of heavy equipment

General:

- Highway 20 remains closed from Corbould Dr to Elsey Rd. except for essential travel.
- This may be suspended or altered without warning due to fire behaviour or operational needs.
- Details and up to date information on highway closures are available at [DriveBC.ca](https://drivebc.ca)

Operations:

- Ground crews are wetlining the fire's edge on the SE, working N to establish a control line
- Air support will cool hot spots as required
- Contingency guards are being established on the E flank
- Structural protection will be set up on the two ranger cabins in the park.

Trumpeter Mtn/Lonesome Lake (VA1456)

- Date of Detection: July 9, 2023
- Location: 1.5 KM NE of Lonesome Lake
- Size: 1,537 hectares
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Lightning

Resources:

- Several pieces of heavy equipment
- 1 Helicopter

Operations:

- Fire activity increased yesterday in the NE due to winds
- Wind shift later pushed the fire back on itself
- Today old fire guard on the NE and SE were opened to establish a control line and tie into the old Precipice fire guard
- Aerial support will continue to bucket water onto hot spots, where required.
- Planning an aerial ignition on the E flank of the fire to remove unburnt fuel between the control line and the fire's edge.

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- The BC Wildfire Service is working with Parks to ensure land management objectives are respected. (no guard construction within park boundaries)

Elbow Lake (VA1462)

- Date of Detection: July 9, 2023
- Location: 2.7 KM SW of Elbow Lake
- Size: 414 hectares
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Lightning

Resources:

- No resources are on this fire at present but it is monitored regularly

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The fires below are being managed out of the Cariboo Fire Centre

Tiltatgo Lake/Irene Lake (C11892)

- Date of Detection: July 19, 2023
- Location: 2 km ESE of IR 18 (Betty Creek)
- Size: 100 hectare
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Natural

Resources:

- Initial Attack crew en route
- Medium helicopter en route

Operations:

- Air tanker action on 19 July followed by helicopter bucketing
- Spreading E

Pan Creek (C11407)

- Date of Detection: July 9, 2023
- Location: 3.5 km W of Pan Creek
- Size: spot
- Status: Out of Control
- Cause: Natural

Resources:

- No resources are on this fire at present but it is monitored regularly

Morrison Meadows (C51597)

- Date of Detection: July 12, 2023
- Location: Morrison Meadows
- Size: 0.3 ha
- Status: Under control
- Cause: excavator
- No resources
- No visible smokes – waiting for available single resource to go and call out

Community liaison update – Brad Jimmie

Structural Protection team update – Mike Brewer

Evacuation entry permit update – Gail Bittner