



WILDFIRE UPDATE

Elephant Hill Wildfire

Information Bulletin September 10th, 2017

Fire Size: 192,725 hectares (estimated)

Status: Active, Out of Control

Resources: Approximately 520 total personnel are assigned to the Elephant Hill Wildfire. This number includes 397 firefighters, 14 helicopters, 82 pieces of heavy equipment, an Incident Management Team, structural protection personnel, and numerous support personnel working in various operational, administrative, communications, and logistics roles. A new Incident Management Team will be arriving tomorrow. Transition with the new team will occur on Tuesday, September 12, with the new team taking command on Wednesday, September 13.

Update: Recent precipitation (3-8mm) has increased visibility and decreased fire behaviour allowing for better progress on direct attack fire suppression. Crews are making excellent gains on the north flank.

Thermal scans are being planned for priority areas to locate hot spots. Crews will extinguish hot spots found from these scans.

A lot of mop work moving forward due to the size of the fire but crews are progressing well on priority areas.

Evacuation Orders and Alerts: Evacuation Alerts in 70 Mile House and areas west of Highway 97 at the Highway 99 junction have now been rescinded by the

Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD). In addition to these areas being changed from Alert to All Clear, some properties in the Hutchison Lake area are now downgraded from Evacuation Order to Evacuation Alert. For more information contact: Debbie Sell, EOC Information Officer, eocommunications@tnrd.ca, 1-866-377-7188

Other: Conservation Officers and RCMP boats are patrolling on Green and Sheridan Lakes.

The Structural Protection personnel are downsizing. SPU's are being removed from structures in co-ordination with the downgrading of Evacuation Orders.



ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION :

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Fire Behaviour Influences

Weather

Four different components of weather impact wildfires: wind, precipitation, temperature and humidity.



Wind has a tremendous effect on fire control, direction and growth, since it fans or feeds oxygen to the fire. It also flattens or “bends” the flames ahead of the fire, drying and igniting new fuel sources. Wind is the primary cause of spot fires, blowing embers well ahead of the main fire. As wind speed increases, fire intensity and rate of spread can also increase dramatically.

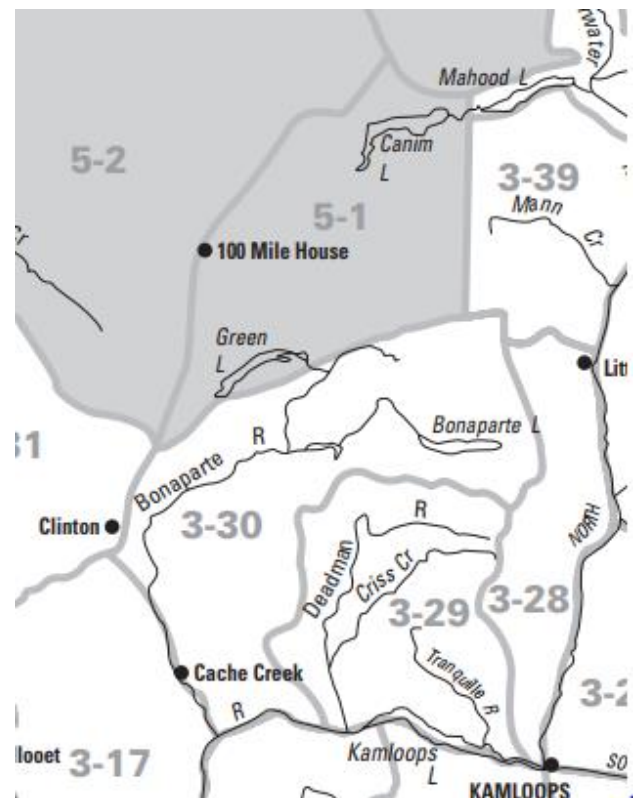
Precipitation is the most beneficial weather factor for fire suppression, since it reduces heat at a wildfire site. Even a light drizzle will deliver more water on a fire than crews can do with pumps. A rain shower may be enough to soak smaller fuels, but it will have little effect on large logs, heavy timber and deep duff. Rain can only be relied on to slow down a fire, not put it out.

Temperature also affects fire behaviour. Fuels that have been heated up by the sun will ignite and burn faster than cooler fuels. Hot weather is the greatest contributing factor to drying out fuels and making a forest or grassland more susceptible to wildfire.

Humidity is the level of moisture (water vapour) in the air and it will affect the moisture content of fuels. For a fuel to burn at a higher temperature, this moisture first must be driven out, and converting that moisture to water vapour cools the fuel and the air around it. High humidity results in lower fire intensity. In the evening, humidity levels generally rise and fuels absorb moisture, reducing the possibility of quick combustion. This helps to explain how a fire that is out of control in the afternoon might be successfully suppressed that evening or the following morning.

Hunting Season is Here

Check <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/regulations-synopsis> for in-season changes prior to your hunt



An **area restriction** for all Crown land in the vicinity of the Elephant Hill wildfire is in effect (WMU 3-30 and 5-1). For more area restriction info: <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=2884>

Why do wildland firefighters use woven fabric hoses instead of plastic or rubber?

Rubber or plastic hoses will melt. Also the polyester and orlon fabric covered hoses are light weight, strong, and resistant to rot or mildew.