



## Ulkatcho Wildfire Update July 26 2023

### **Kappan Complex (C51571, G41165, G41158, G41189, C11892, C11405, VA1167, C51562, VA1735, VA1456, VA1462)**

- The Pacific Northwest Incident Management Team 2 is managing the above 11 incidents in the Kappan Complex.
- The Kappan Complex is organised into 3 Branches: Gatcho Branch, the Satah Branch, and the Coastal Branch.
- The Incident Commander for all fires is Jason Loomis, and the Information Officer is Jessica Mack.
- Structural protection personnel (5 from Coquitlam Fire and Rescue) are continuing to assess and triage where structure protection will be set up.
- 6 helicopters are assigned to the Kappan Complex.
- Other resources are detailed below by fire.

### **Weather**

Anahim Lake received significant rainfall on Monday, (20 mm). Records indicate 15mm in the Moose Lake area and 9mm at Baldface Mountain.

### **Today**

The upper low continues to move east with another weak low behind it. Temperatures will be up a few degrees from yesterday and relative humidity will be moderate with light winds.

### **Outlook**

Thursday is expected to see similar weather with risk of some isolated lightning south of Charlotte Lake to Chilko Lake. Temperatures will remain seasonal or a little below seasonal. No strong trends appear to be developing over the following days: expect seasonal temperatures and scattered precipitation.

### **What's new**

- Chief Lynda Price, Councillors Corinne Cahoose and Mabel Leon, and Ulkatcho member Alan Louie met this morning with firefighters from the United States and local First Nations (Esk'et, Yunesit'in, Tl'etinqox, Tsi Del Del) to thank them for their assistance.
- Rain has fallen across most of the fires in Kappan Complex over the past 48 hours: however it is nowhere near enough to put them out. There are currently 11 fires which have burnt through over 28,000 hectares in the complex alone. The current reprieve in weather will allow more than 250 firefighters to consolidate containment strategies ahead of warmer, drier days forecast later this week.
- As wildfire activity increases in the southern part of BC, and a temporary reduction in fire behaviour is expected locally, aviation resources have been released to support the efforts south of here.
- The Incident Management Team (IMT) and BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) will continue to evaluate the strategic plan for all wildfires and prioritise as required.
- The focus remains on protecting values and limit fire spread and impacts to commercial impacts, private timber lands and cultural values by utilizing pre-existing road systems, opening previous guards, natural features and constructed line.

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- Number one priority for the BCWS is ensuring the safety of first responders. Currently, the main objective is keeping transportation corridors open for access and egress to support fire operations and evacuation routes.

## Road restrictions and changes to evacuation alerts and orders

- The evacuation alert issued on Saturday July 22 for the Bull Canyon Park fire (C51974) area has been rescinded. Highway 20 at Bull Canyon is not threatened by wildfire.
- Highway 20 west of Anahim Lake is open in both directions from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The highway is closed overnight from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. and may close without warning. For further details and up to date information on highway closures go to [DriveBC.ca](http://DriveBC.ca).
- The evacuation alert issued yesterday for the area north of the Anahim Peak Area Order and south of the Gatcho Lake Area Order and Eliguk Lake Area Order remains in effect.
- For information on evacuation alerts and orders, please check the Cariboo Regional District web page "[Current Evacuation Alerts and Orders.](#)"

## GATCHO BRANCH

### Anahim Peak (C51571)

- Location: NE of Anahim Peak
- Size: 3,350 ha (estimate)
- Status: Out of Control

### Resources:

- 53 firefighters, 4 First Aid attendants
- 13 pieces of heavy Equipment, 3 water tenders

### Operations:

- Tuesday there was minimal fire behaviour due to lower temperatures and overcast skies.
- Ground crews have almost completed hand guard on the southwest corner and will continue building guard east to the Dean River as well as to the north.
- Where the fire crossed the Dean River Road on July 20th, heavy equipment will secure control lines to tie the fire back into existing roads.
- Heavy equipment will continue to widen pre-existing trails by Beef Trail Creek to tie into Highway 20. This work is expected to be done by Thursday.
- Structure Protection Crews continue to assess values and set up and maintain protection as required.

### Lily Lake (G41165)

- Location: Lily Lake
- Size: 1,014 ha

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## **Gatcho Lake (G41158)**

- Location: 1.5km SE of Gatcho Lake
- Size: 4,301 ha

## **Moose Lake (G41189)**

- Location: 7 km ESE of Moose Lake
- Size: 3,470 ha

## **Talgatgo Lake/Irene Lake (C11892)**

- Location: 2 km ESE of IR 18 (Betty Creek)
- Size: 342 ha

### **Resources:**

- No resources are currently on the above four fires, but aerial assessments are carried out daily and structural protection is provided to values at risk, including dispersed cabins and lodges in the predicted fire footprint.

## **Corkscrew Creek (C11405) (in Itcha Ilgachuz Park)**

- Location: 2.4 km NW Corkscrew Creek
- Size: 1,282 ha

## **Grizzly Creek (VA1167) (in Tweedsmuir Park)**

- Location: 5 km N of Grizzly Creek
- Size: 100 ha

### **Resources:**

- No resources are on the above two fires in provincial parks, but both are monitored regularly.
- The status of both fires is Out of Control.

## **SATAH BRANCH**

### **Satah (C51562)**

- Location: N of Satah Mountain
- Size: 6,803 ha
- Status: Out of Control

### **Resources:**

- 40 firefighters, 2 First Aid attendants
- Tsi Del Del heavy equipment task force team: 11 pieces of heavy equipment, 1 water tender;
- 2 pieces of heavy equipment, 1 water tender

### **Operations:**

- Heavy equipment is building control lines on the south flank close to the fire perimeter to tie into Punky Creek on the east and west flank. Work is almost complete.

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- On the northern and northeastern flank, a main control line and contingency guard is being planned. Terrain is extremely rocky in the area.

## **COASTAL BRANCH**

### **Young Creek (VA1735) (in Tweedsmuir Park)**

- Location: Young Creek
- Size: 3,360 ha
- Status: Out of Control

#### **Resources:**

- 48 firefighters, 1 support person
- 2 pieces of heavy equipment

#### **Operations:**

- Direct attack methods are continuing on the southeastern fire perimeter, where ground crews are wet lining the fire's edge. Firefighters will work their way southeast and move north up the flank of the fire to limit spread.
- A control line is about halfway completed from Highway 20 to tie into natural features on the south/southwestern flank.

### **Trumpeter Mtn/Lonesome Lake (VA1456) (in Tweedsmuir Park)**

- Location: 1.5 KM NE of Lonesome Lake
- Size: 4,616 ha
- Status: Out of Control

#### **Resources:**

- 5 firefighters (4 line locators & 1 equipment supervisor), 2 First Aid attendants
- 16 pieces of heavy equipment and 3 water tenders

#### **Operations:**

- There continue to be pockets of smoke along the perimeter of the wildfire, even with the recent rainfall.
- Heavy equipment is being used to open up existing roads northeast of the fire, including Kappan Road, as control lines for future burning off.
- Structural protection specialists continue to set up protection on properties northeast of the fire.
- Aerial support will continue to bucket water onto hot spots, where required.
- The BC Wildfire Service is working closely with BC Parks to ensure land management objectives are incorporated into fire suppression planning operations.

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## **Elbow Lake (VA1462) (in Tweedsmuir Park)**

- Location: 2.7 KM SW of Elbow Lake
- Size: 416 ha
- Status: Out of Control

### **Resources:**

- No ground resources are on this fire now, but it is monitored often from the air.

## **Fires of interest managed by the Cariboo Fire Centre**

### **Bull Canyon West (C51976)**

- Location: 2 km N of Highway 20 9 km W of Bull Canyon
- Size: 10.5 ha
- Status: Under Control

### **Resources:**

- 9 firefighters

### **Operations:**

- The fire is 100% machine-guarded.

### **Bull Canyon Park (Siwash) (C51974)**

- Location: 2.3 km SE of Chilko River
- Size: 1,306 ha
- Status: Being Held

### **Resources:**

- 17 firefighters, 1 First Aid attendant
- 3 pieces of heavy equipment, 1 water tender

### **Operations:**

- This fire is contained with machine guard.

## **Fires of interest managed by the Coastal Fire Centre**

### **Oppy Lake (VA1381) (in Tweedsmuir Park)**

- Location: 0.8 km S of Oppy Lake
- Size: 2,272 ha
- Status: Out of Control

### **Resources:**

- No resources are currently on this fire but it is monitored often.