

Coastal Fire Centre: Status Report




Prepared July 28, 2021

Zone Fire Danger Rating and Activity Level		
Zone	Fire Danger Rating	Activity Level
Fraser	Extreme	3
Pemberton	High/Extreme	3
Sunshine Coast	Extreme	3
South Island	Extreme	3
Mid Island	Extreme	3
North Island	High/Extreme	3
Central Coast (Bella Coola)	Low/Moderate	2
Haida Gwaii	Low	2

Overview
<p>The Coastal Fire Centre has maintained a strong initial attack response with good success. Human-caused fires continue to represent most new starts in Coastal Fire Centre, with about 95% of fires believed to be caused by human activity so far this year.</p> <p>While precipitation has slightly decreased the fire risk in northern portions of the Coastal Fire Centre, the southern half is continuing to experience a drying trend that is expanding areas of high and extreme fire danger.</p> <p>Due to the low fire danger risk on Haida Gwaii, effective noon July 28, 2021, the campfire prohibition for Haida Gwaii was rescinded.</p> <p>Please continue to watch for and report any fires you may see to 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on cell phones.</p>



Fire Activity			
Fires Currently Burning	4 (2 undetermined / 2 lightning) *Subtotals may not add up to the total since fires not classified as "lightning-caused" or "human-caused" are still under investigation.		
New Fires Last Week	13 (July 22-July 28)		
	This Fire Season (since April 1)	Last Year (2020)	10-Year Avg. (2010 – 2020)
Total Fires to Date	146	41	76
Total Hectares to Date	1197	239	2570

Active Fires
<p>There are currently four active fires in the Coastal Fire Centre. Two of these fires are 'Under Control' and two are 'Out of Control.' The fires that are 'Out of Control' include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gyllenspetz Creek (VA1545) is 100 hectares in size and is a Modified Response fire. A fire guard is being maintained at the base of this fire. Mowhokam Creek (V11669) is 947 hectares in size and is being managed as part of the Lytton Complex.

Fire Prohibitions and Restrictions		
		
Cat 2 – Prohibition Cat 3 – Prohibition	Prohibition Everywhere except Haida Gwaii	Not in Effect
<p>For more information on specific activities that are prohibited during a Category 2, Category 3 or campfire prohibition, visit https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status</p>		

Coastal Fire Centre: Fire Zones
 <p>Click here for more information about the Coastal Fire Centre (Fire Danger Rating Maps, Danger Class Reports, Fire Weather Maps, Active Wildfire Map) or visit: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status</p>

Weather Forecast
<p>OUTLOOK (Friday – Sunday): A building ridge of high pressure centred over the Interior continues to support a southwesterly, onshore flow across the Fire Centre. As the ridge continues to strengthen, temperatures will climb a couple of degrees until Saturday while relative humidities continue their downward trend with most locations dipping to 20-30% in the afternoon and far inland reaches falling into the teens. Heat warnings now in effect for most South Coast locations. The upper flow will gradually shift to the south by Friday opening the door to subtropical moisture and the potential for lightning. While a widespread lightning outbreak is not likely, the potential for lightning increases Friday through Sunday for all zones from Mid Island to Sunshine Coast and inland. Given the ongoing prolonged dry spell, fuels will be receptive to any lightning. Any thunderstorms on Sunday will likely be accompanied by some rainfall.</p> <p>6 TO 10 DAY (Monday – next Friday): The heat is forecast to break on Monday with temperatures falling 5-10 degrees. A large-scale trough over the Coast will support cloudier and cooler conditions next week. Whether the precipitation accompanying the trough manages to reach the South Coast remains to be seen.</p>

Coastal Contact Information
<p>Coastal Fire Centre Information Officer: 250 951-4229 To Report a Wildfire: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on a cell phone Fire Information Line: 1 888 336-7378 Burn Registration Line: 1 888 797-1717</p> <p>Follow us:</p> <p> Twitter: @BCGovFireInfo  Facebook: @BCForestFireInfo  Website: www.bcwildfire.ca  FireSmart www.FireSmartBC.ca and www.FireSmartCanada.ca</p>

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Prepared July 21, 2021

Zone Activity Level	
Level 1: (Exporting)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low to normal fire activity; no additional resource support is anticipated Adequate resources to deal with anticipated fire demands Monitor and anticipate possible support for non-wildfire provincial emergencies Zone resources may be deployed to other zones, fire centres, and out of province 	
Level 2: (Exporting/ Holding)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an increase in fire activity; zone resources are adequate to meet their demands Monitor and anticipate possible support for non-wildfire provincial emergencies Limited resources may be deployable to other zones, fire centres, or out of province 	
Level 3: (Holding)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an increase in fire activity; zone may not be able to meet local resource demands Resources from other zones / fire centres may be requested to assist zone activity Long term strategic planning becomes critical in determining what resources are needed where Zone staff on standby based on anticipated needs 	
Level 4: (Holding/ Importing)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The zone is experiencing a high level of fire activity Zone resources will need to be supplemented from other zones / fire centres / type 2 crews Out of province resource requests for specific or critical resources may be required if provincial resource capacity is not able to handle fire demands 	
Level 5: (Importing)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The zone is experiencing very significant fire activity, and/or extreme fire behaviour; heavy demands on provincial and fire centre resources are occurring and anticipated to continue Resource capacity is supplemented with staff from Wildfire TEAMS, other Ministries, the forest sector, Fire Departments, and type 2/3 resources 	
Fire Stages of Control	
Out of Control	Describes a wildfire that is not responding (or only responding on a limited basis) to suppression action, such that the perimeter spread is not being contained.
Being Held	Indicates that (with the resources currently committed to the fire) sufficient suppression action has been taken that the fire is not likely to spread beyond existing or predetermined boundaries under the prevailing and forecasted conditions.
Under Control	The fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.

Disclaimer: The information in this status report is intended for general purposes only and should not be relied on for operational decisions as fires are dynamic and situations change quickly. The BC Wildfire Service makes no warranties or guarantees either expressed or implied as to the completeness, accuracy or correctness of the information, nor accept any liability arising from any incorrect, incomplete or misleading information contained therein.

Fire Danger Rating	
Status	Description
Low	Fires may start easily and spread quickly but there will be minimal involvement of deeper fuel layers or larger fuels.
Moderate	Forest fuels are drying and there is an increased risk of surface fires starting. Carry out any forest activities with caution.
High	Forest fuels are very dry and the fire risk is serious. New fires may start easily, burn vigorously, and challenge fire suppression efforts. Open burning and industrial activities may be restricted.
Extreme	Extremely dry forest fuels and the fire risk is very serious. New fires will start easily, spread rapidly, and challenge fire suppression efforts. Open burning, industrial activities and campfires may be restricted.
Wildfire Ranks	
Rank	Description
1	Characteristics: Smouldering ground fire, no open flame, white smoke, slow (i.e. creeping) rate of fire spread. Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools and water delivery systems (i.e. pumps and hose).
2	Characteristics: Surface fire, visible, open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front, slow rate of spread. Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools, water delivery systems, or heavy equipment. Hand constructed control lines and lines that have been cleared of combustible material will likely be successful.
3	Characteristics: Organised flame front – fire progressing in organised manner, occasional candling may be observed along the perimeter and/or within the fire, moderate rate of spread. Firefighting tactics: Hand constructed control lines alone are likely to be challenged, ground crews conducting direct attack may require air support from fixed-wing air tankers, skimmers or helicopters conducting bucketing or tanking operations. Control lines constructed by heavy equipment will generally be effective.
4	Characteristics: Grey to black smoke, organised surface flame front, moderate to fast rate of spread on the ground, short aerial bursts through the forest canopy, short-range spotting. Firefighting tactics: Ground operations may not be successful at the head of the fire, indirect tactics may be required to bring the head of the fire under control. Parallel attack may be used along the flanks of the fire to direct the head into favourable ground or fuels. Air operations may be required to support ground personnel.
5	Characteristics: Black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and spot fire growth. Firefighting tactics: The limited options available include indirect attack and planned ignitions to remove fuel in the path of this type of fire behaviour. Ground operations are often restricted to fighting the least active sections of the fire or conducting ground ignition operations from secure control lines with readily available escape routes and safety zones.
6	Characteristics: Organised crown fire front, long-range spotting and independent spot fire growth, possible fireballs and whirls, violent fire behaviour probable, a dominant smoke column may develop which influences fire behaviour. Firefighting tactics: Firefighting under these conditions is extremely dangerous. Suppression efforts will be well away from active fire behaviour and may include preparing structure protection measures or conducting indirect large-scale ignition operations in an attempt to steer the fire. Often, the safest and most prudent strategy is to pull resources back to safe areas, ensure that personnel and the general public are safe, and wait for fire behaviour to lessen before re-engaging in fire suppression operations.



RANK 1 RANK 2 RANK 3 RANK 4 RANK 5 RANK 6