



September 5, 2017

WILDFIRE UPDATE

Community Bulletin

Precipice Fire (VA0778)

Size: 7368 (est.) 52 Km E of Bella Coola.

Containment: 30% contained on areas outside South Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, the area in the park is being allowed to burn as per the Park's Fire Management Plan.

Cause: Lightning

Resources: 21 firefighters, 1 helicopter with additional air support as needed.

Status: This fire is not expected to grow past it's current boundaries.

Objectives: Crews continue to address hotspots but the majority of the action is patrolling the fire perimeter and de-mobbing equipment (hoses, pumps, etc.).

In cooperation with the homestead residents of "the Precipice," Structural Production crews will be removing the precautionary sprinklers and hose. All equipment is refurbished and used on other incidents as needed.



CCRD Chair Alison Sayers with
Monika Reid (Caitlin Thompson)

The Coast Mountain News recently published an article describing the perspective of Precipice residents:

<http://www.coastmountainnews.com/news/residents-carry-on-as-precipice-fire-threatens-homes>.

Kleena Kleene Fire (C50774)

Size: 24, 107(est.) 200 Km E of Williams Lake.

Cause: Lightning

Resources: 132 firefighters, 9 helicopters and 45 pieces of equipment.

Status: This fire consists of two branches, the Colwell Branch and the Kleena Kleene Branch.

On the **Colwell Branch (934)** there was no growth on the perimeter. There was some torching of trees on the fire but this was within the perimeter. Proximal guards are nearing completion on the Northeast side of the fire nearest community structures. Building of the guard is continuing with help from helicopter air support that cool the fire so that ground crews can work in those areas as aircraft don't put out fires, hardworking boots on the ground do.

On the **Kleena Kleene Branch (744)** work continues on the guard that runs from the south end of Bear Lake to the fires perimeter. Some spotting occurred in this area but crews were on-site and extinguished any spots. On the northern most point of the fire, wood is being felled and bunched removing fuel from within the perimeter of the fire.

Objectives: On the **Colwell Branch (934)** work on the guard on the east side will continue. This work is expected to take two days to reach the river. In the vicinity of the Coleman-Flyshacker Trail, crews continue to work anticipating that work in the area will take a few days to complete.

On the **Kleena Kleene Branch (744)** crews are mopping up from Big Bear Lake to Big Stick Lake. They also continue to build guard at the northern most point of the fire, stringing hose as they proceed.

In addition to mechanical and hand guards, crews are patrolling the lines and looking for opportunities for controlled ignitions. Burning fuels between a control line and the head of the fire is one of the most effective tools in keeping fires contained as they reduce the chance of sudden weather conditions overwhelming the hard work of fire fighting efforts. Burn operations will only be conducted as conditions allow. Considerable fire management knowledge and experience go into these decisions to burn.

The Fire Situation can rapidly change. Community members are strongly encouraged to stay up to date with the latest fire information by checking with authorities.

Fire Information Officer: Marg Drysdale 250-742-3806 | WestChilcotinComIN@gov.bc.ca

Frequently Asked Questions

September 5, 2017

When will the alerts be lifted in the area so I can send my kids to school?

We understand that the Evacuation Alert is interfering with the start of the school year since the school district has chosen to not operate in Alert areas. Ultimately, the Cariboo Regional District is responsible for issuing Evacuation Alerts and Orders for the Hwy. 20.

However, the West Chilcotin Complex Incident Management Team (IMT) is aware of this concern and have been communicating it to the Cariboo Fire Centre so who make recommendations to the Cariboo Regional District.

For more information go to: <http://www.sd27.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2018.08.31-School-Delays-and-Bus-Route-Changes-Wildfire.pdf>

When will the back country be opened in Tweedsmuir Park?

Tweedsmuir Park is under the jurisdiction of BC Parks which has placed a restrictive order over this area. Also in the mix is the Central Coast Regional District and Cariboo Regional Districts who issue orders and alerts which affect staging areas outside the park.

The West Chilcotin Complex IMT understands that many local residents rely on Tweedsmuir Park for economic purposes and recreational opportunities and have communicated this to relevant parties, along with status of Fire VA0778 and C50744 and forecasted weather and fire behaviour analysis.

What about local Rec Sites and Trails?

For more information go to: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/camping-hiking/sites-trails>

Can I operate my chainsaw to cut firewood?

Operating a powersaw may be designated as a high risk activity under the *BC Wildfire Act* (Sec. 6). Therefore, if a person is planning on using one within 300m of forest land or grassland until November 1, or unless the area is snow covered, they would have to do the following:

- Step 1: Consult the *Wildfire Act* to determine if the activity is considered high risk. If it is,
- Step 2: Determine what the fire danger rating is at the proposed location of operation.
- Step 3: Based on the fire danger rating, determine what the restriction is for the high risk activity.

[Recent Precipitation has assisted fire-fighting efforts](#)

Evacuation Order and Alert Information: The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) **Evacuation Alert** remains in affect for all three areas. Orders and alerts can be viewed at the Cariboo Regional District website at <http://www.cariboord.bc.ca/>

The CCRD **Evacuation Alert** is still in effect and can be viewed at the Central Coast Regional District website: www.ccrd-bc.ca. BC Parks closures still in effect and parks will evaluate and make the call to stay closed or open based on site by site and fire analysis.

Campfire Ban: The West Chilcotin is currently under a campfire ban that took effect on July 7, 2017.

Open Fire Prohibition: All open fire is currently prohibited. For more detail, go to <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>

Road Closures: For more information about road closures, go to www.drivebc.ca.

Off-road vehicle restrictions due to wildfires—Effective at noon Pacific time on Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, the operation of any off-road vehicle for recreational purposes on Crown land was prohibited throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre, Kamloops Fire Centre and Southeast Fire Centre. In addition, all on-highway vehicles were required to remain on defined road surfaces. **ORV bans** still in effect and can be viewed at www.bcwildfire.ca



The Fire Situation can rapidly change. Community members are strongly encouraged to stay up to date with the latest fire information by checking with authorities.

Fire Information Officer: Marg Drysdale 250-742-3806 | WestChilcotinComIN@gov.bc.ca