

# BENDOR RANGE COMPLEX WILDFIRE UPDATE

The Bendor Range Complex Incident Management Team is now in command of the following wildfires:

- **Downton Lake (K71649) - 9,393 ha**
- **Casper Creek (K71535) - 10,892 ha**
- **Nomad Creek (K73144) - 24 ha**

**Overview**

Near seasonal temperatures as a mix of sun and cloud hover over the Bendor Range Complex on Wednesday. High of 24 degrees. Relative humidity values will range from 30-40%. Winds are forecast to be generally light at 5-15 km/hr with possible gusts of 25 km/hr. Increased smoke from fire areas should be expected intermittently in the coming days, depending on local winds and weather conditions. As we approach the weekend, an upper ridge settles over the province, leading to a gradual increase in temperatures.

**Important Safety Information**

This is an active wildfire that presents many hazards. Crews, heavy equipment and aircraft will be working for weeks to come to contain this and other fires in the area. Helicopters are bucketing to support the work of ground crews. Please steer clear of areas where these aircraft are operating. When helicopters fly at low altitude, rotor wash (strong downward winds from the blades) can cause tree-tops, trees with weakened root systems and debris to fall, creating dangerous conditions for anyone on the ground nearby. Bucketing helicopters are scooping water from lakes and rivers in the area. Please give them ample room to maneuver if you are travelling on local waterways. Drones are a serious hazard when used in the vicinity of wildfires. A drone colliding with aircraft could result in serious injury or death for those on board. Using a drone in the area may mean all aerial firefighting has to stop for safety reasons. It is illegal to fly a drone or operate any aircraft near a wildfire. The public must stay out of active fire areas. Public interference in firefighting operations is dangerous and impedes our ability to work efficiently, effectively and safely. Please give the BC Wildfire Service and other response personnel the space they need to suppress these fires as safely and quickly as possible.



A helicopter buckets water onto the Downton Lake Fire (K71649) (Photo taken August 28, 2023)

**To report a new wildfire, dial 1-800-663-5555 or \*5555 on a cell phone, or use the BCWS mobile app**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Bendor Range Complex Information**  
 BCWS.Bendor.info@gov.bc.ca  
 250-554-7178

**Squamish-Lillooet Regional District EOC**  
[www.slrd.bc.ca/EOC](http://www.slrd.bc.ca/EOC)  
 604-894-6371

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## **Nomad Creek Wildfire (K73144)**

The Nomad Creek wildfire (K73144) is now Being Held. This means the fire is not likely to spread beyond existing boundaries under current conditions. [Learn more about wildfire stages of control.](#) Crews have completed a control line on the west side of the fire from the Kingdom Lake Forest Service Road to high-elevation rocky terrain that serves as a natural fire break. Firefighters continue work on Wednesday to finish hoselay and a guard on the fire's east flank.

## **Downton Lake Wildfire (K71649)**

Structure protection personnel have finished demobilizing equipment from Gold Bridge and before that, Tyaughton. Crews will begin working on the Gun Lake area on Wednesday, removing equipment where it's no longer required. The demobilization is expected to take a couple of days. Structure protection will remain in the region in the coming days to monitor and patrol, and respond to any threats to properties, structures and other values. Infrared scans are ongoing to identify heat around the perimeter of the fire. These scan results aid crews as they search out hotspots and extinguish them. There are 50 firefighters working on the fireline Wednesday. Firefighters continue to seek out and extinguish hotspots with the aid of infrared scan results. Mop up and patrols are ongoing in many areas of the fire perimeter as crews ensure there are no remaining areas of heat along guards. Equipment is being demobilized in areas where it is no longer required. Expect patrols, monitoring and mop up activities to continue in the coming weeks.

## **Area Restriction**

The BC Wildfire Service has implemented an area restriction in the vicinity of this wildfire. More information: <https://blog.gov.bc.ca/bcwildfire/area-restriction-implemented-for-the-downton-lake-wildfire/>

## **Evacuation Orders and Alerts**

The Evacuation Order issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District has been partially rescinded to [an Evacuation Alert](#) for the Bralorne area. An Evacuation Order remains in effect for all other areas. Full details can be found on [the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District website](#), which also offers guidance for those [returning home after a wildfire](#).

## **Additional Information**

The [South Chilcotin Mountains Park](#) and all [Rec Sites and Trails](#) in the vicinity of the wildfire have been closed.

## **Casper Creek Wildfire (K71535)**

There are 59 firefighters working the Casper Creek wildfire on Wednesday, locating and extinguishing hotspots across the fire. This work will be ongoing in the coming days. Mopping up is the process of locating and extinguishing pockets of burning material near control lines so the fire won't later flare up along guards. Mop up often involves falling trees, cooling ashpits, digging out smouldering fuels, among other tasks. Mopping up large perimeters, such as on the Casper Creek Lake wildfire, is a long, methodical—and vital—process to secure the fire perimeter against further spread. Danger tree assessments and falling are ongoing across the fire and heavy equipment remains available to support crews as required.

The BC Wildfire Service is working closely with authorities and agencies to establish a reopening plan for Mission Mountain Road. This remains an operational priority. For more information on road closures, please visit [DriveBC](#).

## **Evacuation Orders and Alerts**

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District has issued Evacuation Alerts and Orders for areas in the vicinity of this wildfire. For information please visit: <https://www.slrd.bc.ca/>

The [South Chilcotin Mountains Park](#) and all [Rec Sites and Trails](#) in the vicinity of these wildfires remain closed.

## COMPLEX CONTACT INFORMATION

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250-554-7178

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