

# 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

An upper ridge sits over the region today as a drying trend continues to build. We will see mainly sunny skies over the Bendor Range Complex, with southwesterly winds at 10 to 20 km/hr. Temperatures will reach 24 to 26 degrees on Thursday and weather is expected to continue to be gradually warmer and drier as we move into the weekend. Increased smoke from fire areas should be anticipated intermittently in the coming days, depending on winds and weather conditions. Firefighters, heavy equipment, aircraft and structure protection personnel and equipment are on site and prepared to respond as required to any increased fire activity.

## Important Safety Reminder

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. Please give fire crews, aircraft and emergency vehicles ample room to operate safely. Forested areas affected by wildfires include trees with weakened root systems, which are susceptible to creating overhead hazards, creating dangerous conditions for anyone on the ground nearby. These trees may fall when high winds or heavy rains occur. It will remain important for residents to be vigilant in the future when entering fire affected forested areas. Below is an examples of weakened root systems that can be found in the area of K71649. Other hazards from these wildfires include ash pits, which may be not be visible from the ground above, but are holes in the ground filled with ash and possibly embers that are hot underneath the ground cover.



This photo shows trees left standing and others that have fallen in a fire affected landscape on the Downton Lake Fire—K71649. (Photo taken September 2, 2023)



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Bendor Range Complex Information

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### Squamish-Lillooet Regional District EOC

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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 control lines on the west and east sides of the fire from the Kingdom Lake Forest Service Road to high-elevation rocky terrain that serves as a natural fire break. The fire is contained to the north by rocky mountain terrain and to the south by the road and river. On Thursday, firefighters will complete final patrols to ensure no remaining heat on the perimeter and clean up several “green islands” within the fire to prevent flare ups during forecast hotter, drier weather. Once this is finished, crews will demobilize gear, remove flagging tape and conduct other activities to leave the site in a condition as close as possible to its previous natural state.

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

Structure protection personnel have finished demobilizing equipment from Tyaughton, Gold Bridge and Gun Lake. Personnel will remain in the region in the coming days to monitor and patrol, and respond to any threats to properties, structures and other values. [Learn more about structure protection.](#) There are 78 firefighters working on the fireline Wednesday. A hotspot near the Gun Creek drainage and Pearson Pond flared up Wednesday afternoon, producing smoke visible to nearby residents and communities. Firefighters with helicopter support responded and stayed on scene until late at night when fire behaviour subsided. This flare up is occurring well within the fire perimeter and, as such, poses little threat to surrounding properties, structures and values. Given its location within a burnt area, there is little available fuel for it to spread significantly. Crews and aircraft will be back at the site on Thursday to continue work to extinguish the hotspot. Structure protection equipment was installed on several structures as a precautionary measure. Increased activity may also be visible from Gold Bridge on Thursday where crews and helicopters are actioning two spot fires in the vicinity of the perimeter. Across the fire, 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.

## **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 74 firefighters working the Casper Creek wildfire on Wednesday, locating and extinguishing hotspots with the support of helicopters. Expect patrols, monitoring and mop up activities to continue in the coming weeks. 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 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.**

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