

BENDOR RANGE COMPLEX WILDFIRE UPDATE

The Bendor Range Incident Management Team currently has command of five wildfires located in the Lillooet Fire Zone.

This Community Bulletin covers the following wildfires:

- 📍 **Downton Lake (K71649)**
- 📍 **Casper Creek (K71535)**

Key Statistics

Total Fire Size	7,253ha
Firefighters Deployed	128
Aircraft Assigned to Complex	11
Heavy Equipment Assigned	19

Weather Overview

Today: Hot, dry conditions with possible record-setting temperatures expected.

Outlook: One more day of hot & dry conditions, followed by a dry cold front bringing strong, gusty winds and possible dry lightning.

Downton Lake (K71649)

The Downton Lake (K71649) wildfire was initially detected on Thursday July 13, starting as a result of lightning activity in the area. It is currently 2,603ha in size and remains Out of Control.

The BC Wildfire Service and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District continue to meet daily regarding the ongoing response to the Downton Lake wildfire - with the review of Evacuation Orders and Alerts a key topic. All partners are working towards returning affected community members to their properties in a safe and coordinated fashion as soon as possible.

Forward planning over recent days had partial revocation of the Evacuation Order and Alerts imminent. However, less than favourable fire weather conditions – a dry cold front with strong and gusty winds following a period of extremely hot and dry weather – is forecast for later this week – which could present challenges to existing objectives on the Downton Lake Fire. We are preparing operationally for this event.

As a result, the BC Wildfire Service is not recommending a change to the current Evacuation Orders and Alerts for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District until after this weather event, when the parties will meet again to reassess. The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and BC Wildfire Service are working together and in agreement with these overall plans to move forward.

We appreciate the desire for the community to return as soon as possible. Maintaining the current Evacuation Order and Alert puts the safety of the community first. This also enables other provincial government agencies – such as BC Hydro and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – to complete critical assessment and



Successful planned ignitions have been completed over recent days, further consolidating containment on the north-eastern extent of the Downton lake (K71649) wildfire.

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remedial work along the West side of Gun Lake, that will enhance the safety and comfort of returning residents.

We extend our support to the wider community affected by this wildfire and appreciate their continued understanding.

Firefighters have successfully completed planned ignitions along the north-eastern flank, bringing fire down to established guards. Firefighters are now aggressively mopping up to consolidate this line. This containment is crucial to being able to rescind/modify current Evacuation Orders and Alerts in the future.

Across the remainder of the fire perimeter, firefighters continue to consolidate guards and mop up operations to protect and minimize further fire progression towards private property and critical infrastructure. Due to the deep-seeded nature of remaining hotspots, this work will be ongoing for some time.

Continuing hot and dry conditions will lead to an increase in fire behaviour – behind established guards – with smoke visible from surrounding areas. Water-bucketing helicopters are assigned to assist with moderating this fire behaviour.

Structure protection continues to be demobilised as the risk to structures where no longer required, in favour of targeted mop up operations adjacent to properties. Structure protection remains available if required.

An [Evacuation Order](#) - issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District - remains in place.

An [Evacuation Alert](#) - issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District - remains in place.

BC Wildfire Service and BC Parks continue to liaise with regards to the [South Chilcotin Mountains Park](#) closure. Following discussions held today, a decision has been made to continue the closure of South Chilcotin Mountains Park due to deteriorating weather conditions and ongoing firefighting operations. A further review of the closure is scheduled for Friday August 18.

Road 40 (Lillooet-Pioneer Rd) has re-opened with single lane alternating traffic between 8.00am-5.00pm daily following a mudslide between Marshall Lake Rd and Mission Mountain Rd. Visit [DriveBC](#) for updates.

Casper Creek (K71535)

The Casper Creek (K71535) wildfire was initially detected on Tuesday July 11, starting as a result of lightning activity in the area. It is currently 4,653ha in size and remains Out of Control.

Firefighters - supported by heavy equipment and aviation resources - continue work on consolidating guards and undertaking mop up operations around the fire ground under hot and dry fire weather conditions to protect and minimize further fire progression towards people, private property and critical community infrastructure.

As a result of the hot and dry conditions currently being experienced, an increase to fire activity – behind established guards – and visible smoke is likely. Water-bucketing helicopters will be assigned to aid in moderating this increased fire behaviour as required

The Evacuation Order previously issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District was rescinded Wednesday August 9 and downgraded to an [Evacuation Alert](#).

The Evacuation Alert previously issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District for Connel Creek to Pemberton Portage Road was also [rescinded](#) Wednesday August 9.

The [Evacuation Alert](#) issued by the Ts'alh Government remains current.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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