

BENDOR RANGE COMPLEX WILDFIRE UPDATE

The Bendor Range Complex Incident Management Team currently has command of seven 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	9,123 ha
Firefighters Deployed	126
Aircraft Assigned to Complex	11
Heavy Equipment Assigned	21

Weather Overview

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

Outlook: Thursday will bring a cold front from the north, increasing the potential for aggressive fire behaviour and growth on all fires in the complex.



The north flank of the Casper Creek wildfire (K71535) above Carpenter Lake.
Photo taken the morning of Aug. 16, 2023.

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 has implemented an Area Restriction Order as of August 16, 2023 at 8am PST. This order is being implemented in the interest of first responder and public safety. This restriction does not replace or impact the existing Evacuation Alerts or Orders issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. **This restriction will limit most access to the area after existing evacuation orders have been rescinded, and does not restrict entry for those who are:**

- (a) Travelling as a person acting in an official capacity;
- (b) Travelling for the purpose of supporting wildfire suppression activities;
- (c) Travelling to or from his or her principal residence, that is not under an evacuation order;
- (d) Travelling to or from his or her private or leased property for the purposes of accessing his or her secondary residence or recreational property, that is not under an evacuation order; or
- (e) Using a highway as defined in the Highway Act.

The incoming weather event late this week is anticipated to increase fire activity on all fires within the Bendor Range Complex, and no changes have been recommended to the current Evacuation Order and Alerts issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. Maintaining the current Evacuation Order and Alert puts the safety of the community first.

BENDOR RANGE COMPLEX

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.

The ongoing Evacuation Order also enables other provincial government agencies – such as BC Hydro and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – to complete critical assessment and remedial work along Gun Lake West Road, that will enhance the safety of returning residents. Ground crews continue clean-up and remediation work continues along the roadway with support from heavy equipment.

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

While yesterday did present some challenging conditions with stronger winds into the evening, current containment lines on the Downton Lake fire have continued holding. Some spotting was observed in the northeast flank yesterday afternoon. Action taken by ground and air resources on these spots has been successful and no further growth is anticipated.

Bucketing helicopters are continuing to support work along the north flank of the fire where activity has increased due to the return of hot, dry weather. Smoke will be visible along the north flank of the fire while crews continue operations.

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 is now estimated to be 6,520 hectares in size and remains Out of Control. Significant growth was observed on the north east flank last night, driven by strong winds and extremely hot and dry conditions.

Due to this increase in activity, the fire spotted over the top of the ridge and has crossed Mission Mountain Road. As a result, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has closed Mission Mountain Road between Mission Dam Road and Shalath Road 1 km north of Lillooet. For more information on road closures, please visit: <https://www.drivebc.ca/>.

In addition to the Road closure, the Squamish Lillooet Regional District has issued a new Evacuation Alert and an Order related to the Casper Creek wildfire north of the Seton Portage area and south of Carpenter Lake.

We are working closely with BC Hydro and Telus as the wildfire evolves. The wildfire impacted powerlines in the area overnight resulting in a temporary outage to Gold Bridge and surround area. This outage has since been resolved. Air tankers actioned an area northeast of the fire to provide protection to communications infrastructure this morning.

[Evacuation Alerts and Orders](#) issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District remain in place.

The [Evacuation Alert](#) issued by the Seton Lake Indian Band remains in place.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

BC Wildfire Service

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