

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)**

Overview

The highest priority for the BC Wildfire Service is the protection of human life, and the safety of first responders and the public. Road access and accessibility to our wildfires continues to be a challenge within this Complex. Several road closures require alternate routes that pose hazards to personnel such as narrow roads, debris and loose gravel.

Smoke will be extensive over the next 36-48 hours before seeing some improvement on Tuesday. Monday and Tuesday expect sunny skies, warm temperatures, and low min RHs until inflow begins to kick back in. Mid-week, a return to southwest winds from the Pacific are expected with temperatures continuing above seasonal averages. This will increase the cloud cover as well as spread a slight chance of showers and an uptick in min RHs.

Casper Creek (K71535)

The Casper Creek showing aggressive fire behaviour along the Mission Mountain Pass today, pictured above. This evening, air tankers actioned using retardant below the fire to slow spread further downslope. The fire continues burning in very steep terrain, but has had minimal progression farther east within the Bridge River valley.

Ground crews have been working with community members in Shalath to remove fuels in the vicinity of homes, and continue construction of fuel free guard between Mission Mountain Road and Tsee Creek.

Structure protection is assessing the communities of Bridge River First Nation and the Yalakom Valley which are both situated to the east and vulnerable to strong winds and ground that is not conducive to heavy equipment.

The Evacuation Alert and Order issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District remain in effect. Full evacuation information can be found on the [SLRD website](#). The [Evacuation Alert](#) issued by the Tsal'alh Government remains in place.



Fire activity on the Casper Creek wildfire (K71535) looking east over Mission Mountain Road (Aug. 20, 2023).

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
604-894-6371

BENDOR RANGE COMPLEX WILDFIRE UPDATE

Downton Lake (K71649)

In the last 24 hours, growth has been observed on east flank upslope from Carpenter Lake, as well as continued growth northwest behind Mount Penrose and Dickson Peak. The wildfire is now estimated to be 6,884 hectares in size, though heavy smoke has limited accurate tracking of the fire perimeter in most flanks.

Ground crews have been working with heavy equipment to identify and implement guards northeast of Gun Lake, as well as west of Tyaughton Lake. Crews worked overnight on Aug. 19 to patrol and action hotspots in the vicinity of properties in eastern portions of the fire, while structure protection personnel continue triage and implement systems in Gun Creek, Tyaughton Lake and east Gun Lake properties.

Danger tree assessors and fallers are working in conjunction with ground personnel to remove hazards and ensure safe work conditions as operations progress.

The Incident Management Team managing the Bendor Complex is aware of impacts to structures along the northwest side of Gun Lake overnight. The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District will be conducting rapid damage assessments as soon as it is safe to do so and will release that information when available. BCWS is coordinating with SLRD to ensure this happens as quickly as possible.

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District has upgraded all existing Evacuation Alerts to Evacuation Orders, and an additional Evacuation Order has been issued for areas north of Carpenter Lake. Full details can be found on [their website](#).

An Area Restriction Order is now in place for the Downton Lake wildfire. More information on those impacted and the area affected can be found [here](#).

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



Minimal fire activity on the southeast flank of the Downton Lake wildfire (K71649) looking southwest over Lajoie Lake (Aug. 20, 2023).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District EOC
www.slrd.bc.ca/EOC
604-894-6371