

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

Widespread smoke has settled into valleys across the complex, and is expected to persist for the next 36 hours which will continue to impact aerial operations on all wildfires in the area. Relative humidities remain low, recovering to around 60% overnight, with max temperatures of 25 C today and into Tuesday. The incoming weather system incoming from the Pacific through Wednesday and Thursday will provide cloud cover and chance of light precipitation. While precipitation amounts may be negligible, this system will increase relative humidity values.

Casper Creek (K71535)

Increased fire activity along Mission Mountain Road afternoon of Aug. 20 prompted air tanker retardant drop to reduce further growth downslope.

Minimal fire growth east in the Bridge River valley yesterday, though still active growth upslope. Road 40 and Mission Mountain Road remained closed due to hazardous conditions.

Ground crews will be working to reinforce this retardant drop from the ground by implementing water delivery, looking to slow progression further downslope near Mission Mountain Road. Along the southeast, crews are reinforcing the contingency guard above Tsal'alh with hoselay and sprinklers.

Structure protection will be ongoing within the Evacuation Order area in Tsal'alh, as well as assessing the communities of Bridge River First Nation and the Yalakom Valley.

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 Tsal'alh First Nation has upgraded their Evacuation Alert to an [Evacuation Order](#) as of Aug. 20, 2023.



Fire activity on the easternmost flank of the Casper Creek wildfire looking north over the Bridge River (Aug. 20, 2023).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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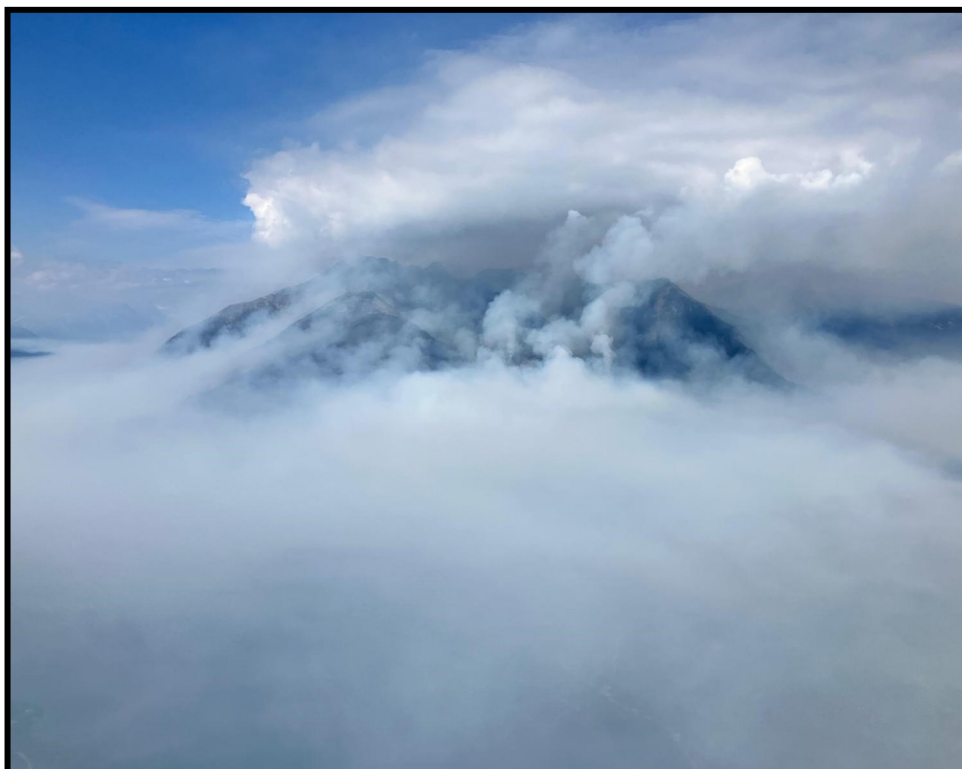
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Downton Lake (K71649)

The wildfire is now estimated to be 7,139 hectares in size, though heavy smoke has limited accurate tracking of the fire perimeter in most flanks.

Ground crews continue working with heavy equipment to implement guards northeast of Gun Lake, tying the guard down to Road 40 and using small scale hand ignitions to reinforce this containment line where possible. Crews continue working overnight to patrol and action hotspots, while structure protection personnel continue to implement systems in Gun Creek, Tyaughton Lake and east Gun Lake properties.

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



An example of smoky conditions on the Downton Lake wildfire (K71649) looking west towards Mount Penrose.

The Incident Management Team managing the Bendor Complex is aware of impacts to structures along the north-west 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 has been issued 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.

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