



## **The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | May 15, 2023, as of 8pm**

The Paskwa fire is located in the community of Fox Lake and was detected on May 2, 2023. This fire is classified as Out of Control (OC) and the last recorded size is 39,179 hectares. The fire is approximately 4km from the Wood Buffalo National Park boundary and 13km from the community of Garden River.

Today, the Structure Protection Group began installation of sprinklers and other structure protection measures in the community of Garden River. Retardant was dropped by air tankers to create a control line near the community to act as a guard and to be used in preparation for potential ignition operations in the coming days. These ignition operations would burn forest fuels between the guard and the northeast perimeter of the fire, helping to secure it and preventing fire growth towards the community.

The forecast cold front is expected to arrive in the area between 9pm and 10pm, bringing with it winds out of the northwest between 30 and 40 km/h and gusts of up to 60km/h. These winds will drive fire activity and movement overnight, which may be visible from the community of Garden River. Any fire growth is forecast to be away from the community and along the southeast edge of the fire.

The evacuation trigger point has been revised in anticipation of the southeast edge of the fire reaching the boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park in the next 24 hours. The revised trigger point has been extended into Wood Buffalo National Park at a distance of approximately 15km around the community of Garden River. The fire has potential to enter the park outside of this trigger in the next 24 hours.

A large format map that includes an up-to-date fire perimeter and revised trigger point will be put up at the school in Garden River. Another map will be put up in the community of Jon D'Or as well.

Today, firefighters and heavy equipment continued building a fire guard along the perimeter moving east from Deep Lake, however poor weather conditions and fire behaviour prevented significant progress. Work in the community of Fox Lake to create safe conditions to allow for re-entry, beginning with temporary access and escorted community visits is ongoing.

There are 79 firefighters, 9 helicopters, and heavy equipment working on the Paskwa fire. Air tanker support is available as requested.

Little Red River Cree Nation has an evacuation order in place for the community of Fox Lake. The community of Garden River is on an evacuation alert. For information regarding the evacuation, please stay informed by visiting the Little Red River Cree Nation's Facebook page.

The Incident Management Team will continue to coordinate with the Wood Buffalo National Park management team as the fire moves towards the park boundary. Once the fire crosses the boundary, a unified incident command will be implemented to manage the fire.

## **Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)**

The Incident Management Team has a dedicated Fire Behaviour Analyst and therefore the weather briefing will be fire area specific. Hot and dry conditions continue with no significant rain in the forecast.



Tomorrow the forecast is as follows, a temperature in the low 20 degrees and a relative humidity of 30 percent.

Tomorrow, northeast winds of 15-20 km/h will continue throughout the day, with gusts of up to 40km. Wind-driven fire growth is expected to be away from the community of Garden River towards the southeast.

### Where can I find more information about the wildfires?

Current information on wildfires can be found:

- [Wildfire.alberta.ca](https://wildfire.alberta.ca)
- Download the Alberta Wildfire Status App [hhttps://open.alberta.ca/blog/?page\\_id=206](https://open.alberta.ca/blog/?page_id=206)
- High Level Forest Area Updates: [hhttps://srd.web.alberta.ca/high-level-area-update](https://srd.web.alberta.ca/high-level-area-update)
- Follow Alberta Wildfire on Facebook, twitter and Instagram.

**To Report a wildfire call 310-FIRE (3473)**



Fire management staff conduct an aerial survey of the fire perimeter on May 15, 2023