



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | May 17, 2023 at 10pm

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 54,400 hectares. The has reached the Wood Buffalo National Park boundary and is approximately 8km from the community of Garden River.

Today backburning operations occurred between the retardant line near the community of Garden River and the northeast perimeter of the fire. Operations were successful and ignition was complete by approximately 2030. The burn was held to the predetermined boundary. The Incident Information Officer was present in the community to provide updates and answer questions as the burn operation progressed. While ignition occurred within the trigger line (approximately between 1800-2000) residents of the community sheltered in place.

The retardant line was reinforced by helicopter bucketing and tomorrow crews plan to begin work on extinguishing hot spots on the northeast perimeter of the burn, starting at the retardant line.

The Incident Commander and Information Officer plan to meet with the community and discuss the conditions that would need to be met in order to lift the evacuation alert currently in place in Garden

This morning, crews installed sprinklers at the Fifth Meridian cultural heritage site. These sprinklers provided a 50' extinguishment around the site and were operational for the entire burning period.

Work also continued 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. A specialized tree-falling crew will arrive tomorrow to assist with removing dangerous trees in the community. Crews continue working to create an extinguished perimeter of approximately 30 metres around every structure. ATCO crews are also working in the community to restore power and repair damaged lines.

There are 95 firefighters, 8 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 remains on an evacuation alert. For information regarding the evacuation, please stay informed by visiting the Little Red River Cree Nation's Facebook page.

An Agency Representative and Information officer from Wood Buffalo National Park have joined the Incident Management Team as the fire has now crossed the boundary into the park.

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 mid-20 degrees and a relative humidity of 15 percent. Southeast becoming southwest winds of 10-20 gusting to 30 km/h will continue throughout the day.



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 https://open.alberta.ca/blog/?page_id=206
- High Level Forest Area Updates: <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)



Ignition operations on the Paskwa Fire on May 17, 2023