



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | May 20, 2023 at 9am

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 70,247 hectares. The fire is 1km inside the Wood Buffalo National Park boundary and is approximately 8km from the community of Garden River.

Today, crews will continue work to secure the northeast perimeter of the fire working along the retardant line on the flank closest to the community of Garden River. Work is also planned to help secure the fire along the oxbow moving south.

Work continues in the community of Fox Lake to create safe conditions to allow for re-entry, beginning with temporary access and escorted community visits. The Incident Management Team is working closely with the Little Red River Cree Nation to develop a timeline for when these visits may be able to occur. Access to the Little Red River cultural heritage site will also be facilitated once escorted visits to the community begin.

Crews will continue to assess and remove dangerous trees in the community of Fox Lake as well as continuing to create an extinguished perimeter of approximately 30 metres around every structure, this objective will take time given the number of structures in the community.

Last night a specialized drone equipped with infrared cameras continued scanning in the community of Fox Lake. The flight identified remaining hot spots in the scanned area, which have now been mapped and provided to crews to assist with ongoing extinguishment work. A final scan is planned for tonight to complete the hot spot mapping in the community. If time permits, the drone will also scan the southwest perimeter near the Little Red River cultural heritage site. A fixed wing scan has been ordered for the entire fire area for tonight.

ATCO crews are also working in Fox Lake to restore power and repair damaged lines.

There are 87 firefighters, 10 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.

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. Today the forecast is as follows, a temperature of 24 degrees and a relative humidity of 30 percent. Easterly winds will continue throughout the day at 10 – 15km.



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)



The Structure Protection Group monitors the Paskwa Fire in Garden River, May 19, 2020