



## **The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | May 27, 2023, at 10:00 AM**

Yesterday's warm and dry weather saw an increase in fire activity. Today, temperatures will be similar and fire behaviour is expected to pick up early.

The fire is most active along the eastern perimeter. Yesterday, crews on the ground focused on strengthening the northeast fire guard to protect the community of Garden River. Four heavy helicopters bucketed along the eastern edge of the fire. This work continues today.

On Friday evening, smoke and ash blew into Garden River. While understandably concerning for residents, the ash posed no risk. It was carried by upper-level winds from the fire area. There is the potential for smoke and ash to affect the community again today. Structural protection remains in place in Garden River with fire fighters ready to respond if needed. Additional sprinkler systems are being installed today.

In Fox Lake, crews began work to extinguish 76m (250 ft) perimeters around all structures in the community. A significant number of hot spots remain in other areas throughout the community, many burning deep in the ground. The objective in Fox Lake is to fully extinguish remaining fire in the area and remove fire related hazards like danger trees. The area is still not safe for residents to return. The Incident Management Team is working closely with Little Red River Cree Nations' Chief and Council, and the Alberta Emergency Management Association to identify a safe route for residents to have an escorted visit to the community in the coming days.

A top priority is keeping the Paskwa Fire south of the Peace River. Fire crews are monitoring for any fire activity along the river and responding with ground crews and helicopter support as required.

Yesterday, crews finished work on the fire guard on the southwest perimeter, extinguishing a 30m-wide (100 ft) line to prevent spread toward cultural values. Today, work will begin to extend this line further to the east.

There are 98 fire personnel (including a 19-person Incident Management Team), 9 helicopters, and heavy equipment dedicated to the Paskwa fire.

### **Evacuation alerts and orders**

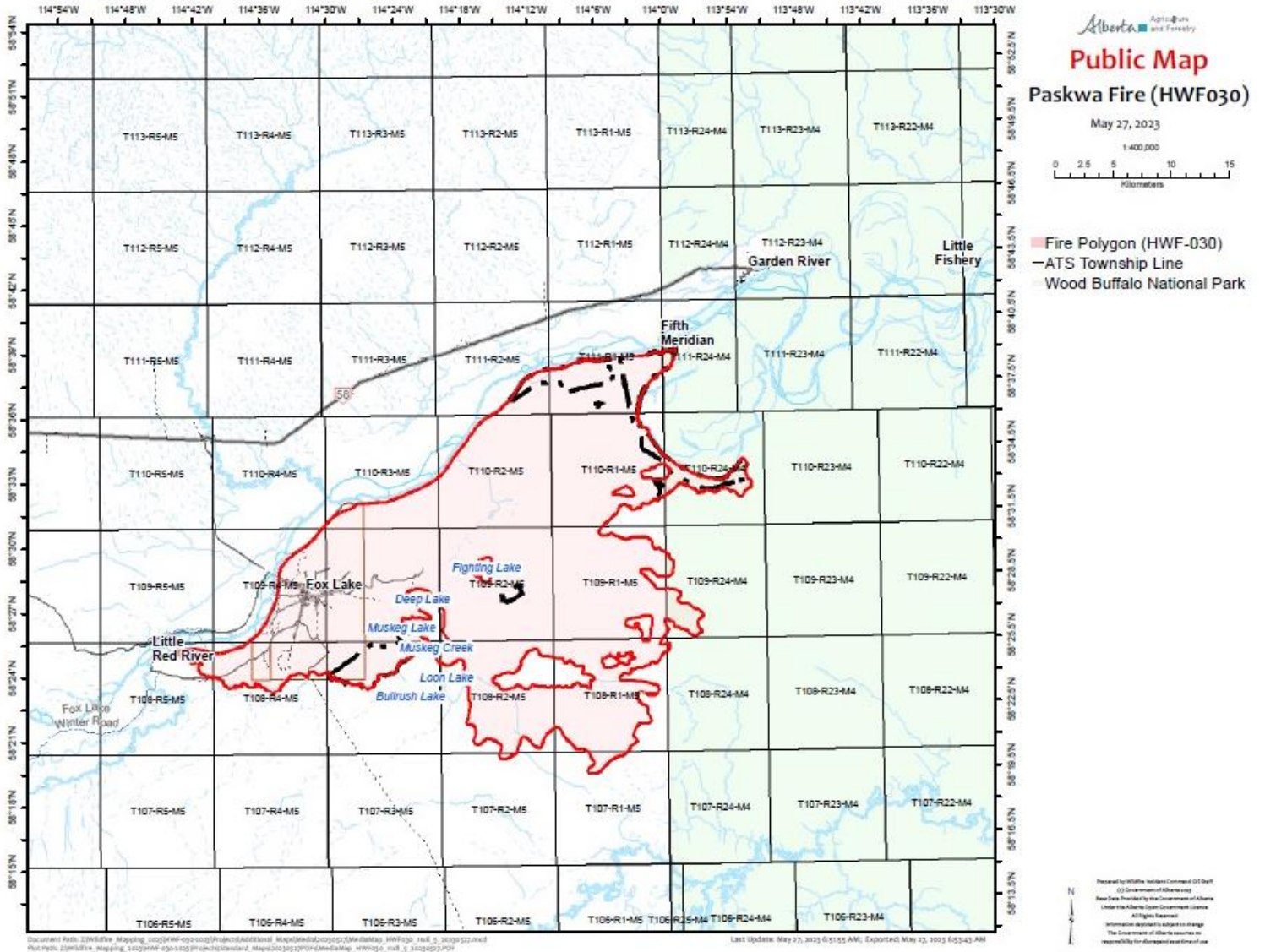
- Currently, Garden River remains on 72-hour evacuation alert.
- Little Red River Cree Nation has an evacuation order in place for the community of Fox Lake.
- For information regarding the evacuation, please stay informed by visiting the Little Red River Cree Nation's Facebook page.

### **Background**

The Paskwa fire was detected on May 2, 2023, in the community of Fox Lake. This fire is classified as Out of Control (OC) and the last recorded size is 73, 936 hectares.

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

A high of 26°C (79°F) is expected today with low humidity. There is a slight chance of isolated showers or thundershowers, but no significant precipitation is forecast.



### Current information on wildfires in Alberta can be found:

- [Wildfire.alberta.ca](https://wildfire.alberta.ca)
- Download the Alberta Wildfire Status App [https://open.alberta.ca/blog/?page\\_id=206](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)**