



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | May 28, 2023, at 10:00 AM

Warm and dry weather continues, and increased fire activity has been observed. The fire is now estimated at 78,065 hectares (780.06 km²).

The fire is most active along the eastern perimeter. Yesterday, ground crews with helicopter support focused on strengthening the previous ignition area at the northeast perimeter. Throughout the day, four heavy helicopters bucketed along the eastern edge of the fire. This work continues today. Smoke is heavy on the eastern perimeter today, resulting in poor visibility. Smoke will continue to affect Garden River and air quality is currently poor.

As the fire moves east, the priority is to maintain the northern perimeter to protect the community of Garden River. Yesterday, a plan to ignite an additional area on the northeastern edge of the fire was evaluated. This would remove fuel ahead of the fire to keep it from moving north. If conditions are favourable, ignition could happen as early as today. Fire personnel will meet with Garden River residents this afternoon to discuss plans.

Yesterday, a structural protection assessment of Garden River was completed to identify where to place additional sprinkler systems to protect the community. Crews will begin to install sprinkler systems today. Fire trucks and personnel remain in place in Garden River ready to respond if needed.

In Fox Lake, work continues to assess and remove danger trees, and to extinguish 76m (250 ft) perimeters around all structures in the community. There are still many hot spots throughout the community, often burning deep in the ground. Due to the continued dry conditions, smoke is being seen from these hotspots. With those and other fire-related dangers, 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 responded to one hot spot along the south side of the river east of the barge.

Crews continue to strengthen the fire guard on the southwest perimeter, extinguishing an area 30m (100 ft) wide along the line to prevent fire spread.

There are currently 141 personnel supporting the Paskwa Fire response including wildland and structural firefighters, incident management staff, and Paskwa Fire Base support staff. There are also 10 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 evacuation information, please visit 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 78,065 hectares as of this morning.

Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Temperatures are expected in the mid-20s in degrees Celsius (around 75°F) today with low humidity. Winds expected to be southwest-west 10 to 15 km/hr with potential gusts up to 35 km/hr this afternoon. There is a low probability of isolated showers or thundershowers with no significant precipitation forecast.



Paskwa Fire (HWF030) May 27, 2023

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
- 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)