



## The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | May 30, 2023, at 10:00 AM

Yesterday was another windy day and extreme fire behaviour was seen on parts of the fire. With lighter winds and cooler temperatures forecast today, more moderate fire behaviour is expected.

With winds predominantly from the west over the last few days, the Paskwa Fire continues to be most active along the eastern perimeter. The fire guard in the northeast edge of the fire has held. This area was ignited between May 17 – 20, 2023, ahead of the fire to remove fuels and prevent spread north. Over the last two days, winds, and extreme fire behaviour, pushed the fire further east in Wood Buffalo National Park. In the northeast, just below the fire guard, the fire travelled approximately 8 km. Four heavy helicopters bucketed throughout the afternoon to manage any hot spots in the northeast along the Peace River.

One of the top priorities is to protect the community of Garden River. If weather and fire conditions are favourable, crews may ignite an area just north of where the fire currently extends 8 km to the east. Removing fuel in this area will help prevent fire spread toward the Peace River and the community of Garden River.

Yesterday, equipment arrived, and crews began installing a high-volume water system and additional sprinkler systems in the community of Garden. This work continues today.

In Fox Lake, work continues to assess and remove danger trees, and to extinguish 76m (250 ft) perimeters around all structures in the community. Yesterday afternoon, danger tree work had to stop as gusting winds posed a risk to crews falling trees. 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 maintain a safe route for residents to have escorted visits to the community.



*Danger tree removal, C. Blesse*

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

Crews continue work along the southwest perimeter, extending the fire guard by extinguishing an area 30m (100 ft) wide along the line to prevent fire spread. Heavy equipment will also be used to establish fire guards along the southern perimeter.

There are currently 193 personnel supporting the Paskwa Fire response including wildland and structural firefighters, incident management staff, heavy equipment operators, and Paskwa Fire Base support staff, as well as 11 helicopters dedicated to the Paskwa fire. Three additional heavy helicopters have been supporting fire operations over the last few days.



## Evacuation alerts and orders

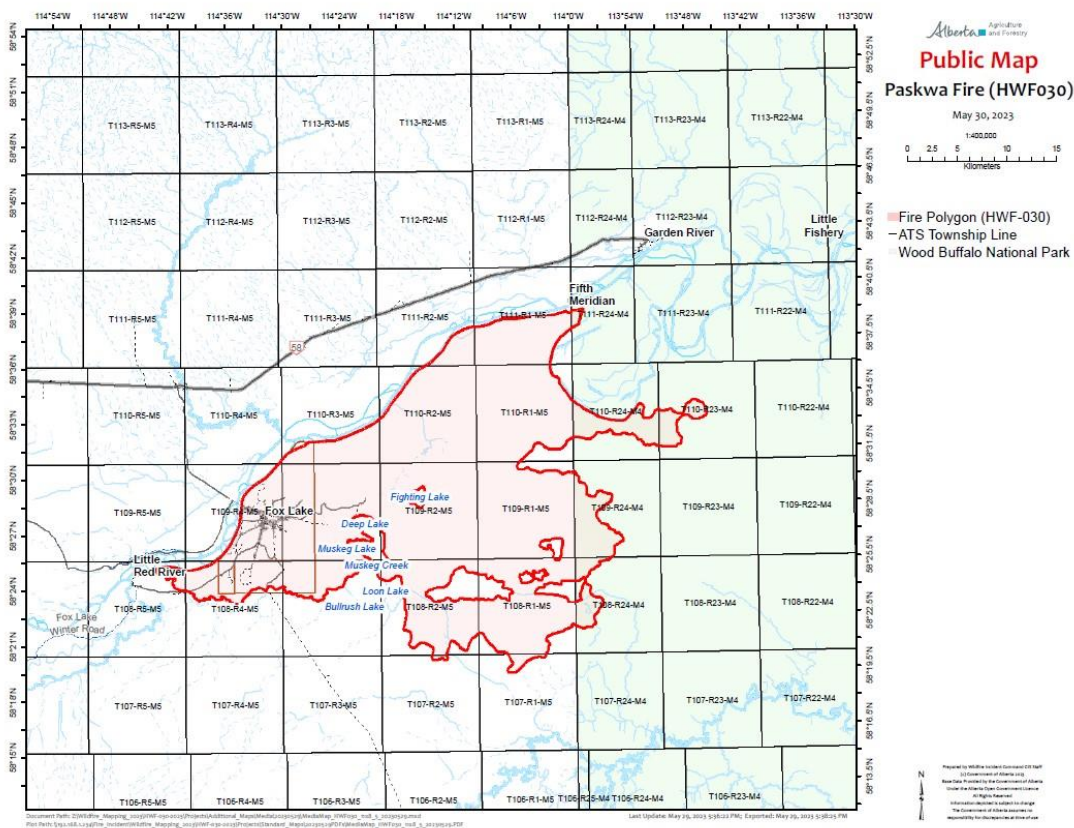
- Currently, Garden River remains on evacuation alert.
- Little Red River Cree Nation has an evacuation order in place for the community of Fox Lake.
- For evacuation information, please visit the Little Red River Cree Nation's Facebook page.

## Background

The Paskwa fire was detected on May 2, 2023, in the community of Fox Lake. As of May 30, the fire is estimated at 85,600 hectares (856.00 km<sup>2</sup>). This fire is classified as Out of Control (OC).

## Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Temperatures are expected in the low-20s in degrees Celsius (around 69°F) today with low humidity. Light winds expected today from the southwest 15 km/hr.



## 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)**