



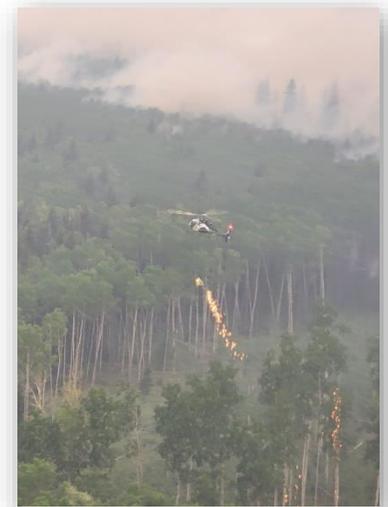
The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | May 31, 2023, at 10:00 AM

Winds were light yesterday, and fire behaviour moderate. Smoke limited visibility for most of the day but crews on the ground made good progress.

One of the top priorities is to protect the community of Garden River. Yesterday evening, weather and fire conditions were favourable for a planned ignition. An area between the Peace River and the northeastern edge of the fire was ignited using a heli-torch. Removing forest fuels in this area helps prevent fire spread north towards the community of Garden River. Over the next few days, crews continue work in this area to remove fuels and extinguish hot spots, to keep the fire south of the Peace River.

In Garden River, structural protection crews continued work on the high-volume water system and additional sprinkler systems. Structural fire fighters remain on standby in the community, ready to respond if needed.

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



Heli-torch ignition, M.Rance



LRRCN firefighters, Chief Sewepagaham

Through ongoing collaboration between Alberta Wildfire and the Little Red River Cree Nation (LRRCN), 30 additional LRRCN wildland firefighters were added to daytime operations in Fox Lake. Many of the firefighters working in the community are from Fox Lake, John D'Or and Garden River.

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 LRRCN Chief and Council, and the Alberta Emergency Management Association to ensure safe access for scheduled community visits by

residents as well as for utility and emergency management personnel.

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. Ground crews are extinguishing hot spots along the southeastern perimeter with support from helicopters bucketing.

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

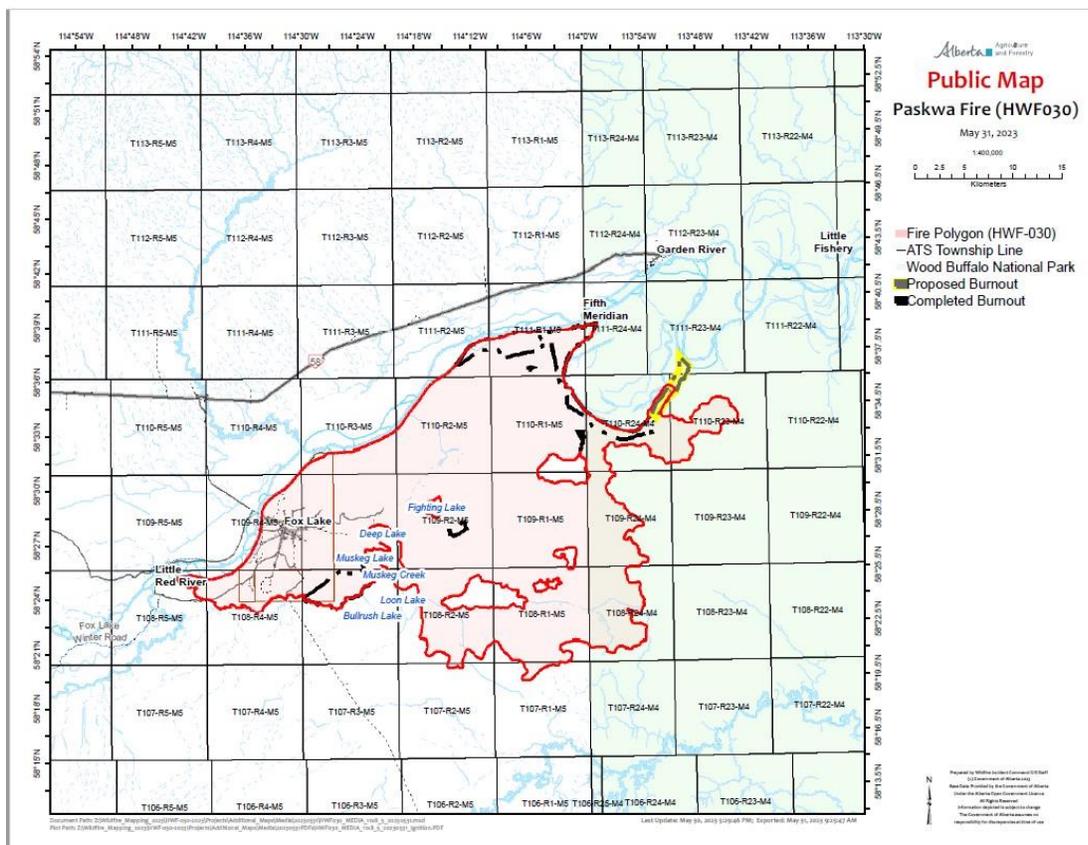
- Currently, Garden River remains on evacuation alert.
- Little Red River Cree Nation has an evacuation order in place for the community of Fox Lake.
- For evacuation information, please visit the Little Red River Cree Nation's Facebook page.

Background

The Paskwa fire was detected on May 2, 2023, in the community of Fox Lake. As of May 31, the fire is estimated at 86,194 hectares (861.94 km²). This fire is classified as Out of Control (OC).

Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Extreme dry conditions continue. Temperatures are expected in the low-20s in degrees Celsius (around 69°F) today with light winds from the southwest 10 km/hr.



Current information on wildfires in Alberta:

- [Wildfire.alberta.ca](https://wildfire.alberta.ca) or download the [Alberta Wildfire Status App](#)
- **High Level Forest Area** Updates: srd.web.alberta.ca/high-level-area-update
- Follow Alberta Wildfire on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- For fires in **Wood Buffalo National Park**: [wildfire updates](https://parks.canada.ca/woodbuffalo) (parks.canada.ca/woodbuffalo)

To Report a wildfire, call 310-FIRE (3473)