



## **The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | May 18, 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 60,900 hectares. With the backburn, the fire is 1km inside the boundary the Wood Buffalo National Park boundary and is approximately 8km from the community of Garden River.

Yesterday, backburning operations occurred between the retardant line near the community of Garden River and the northeast perimeter of the fire. Operations were successful and ignition was complete by approximately 2030. The burn was held to the predetermined boundary. Today, crews plan to begin work on extinguishing hot spots on the northeast perimeter of the burn, starting at the retardant line. Some hand ignition may also be used to ensure the complete removal of fuels in this area.

The Incident Commander and Information Officer plan to meet with the community and discuss the conditions that would need to be met in order to lift the evacuation alert currently in place in Garden River.

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 is ongoing. A specialized tree-falling crew is expected to arrive today to assist with removing dangerous trees in the community. Crews continue working to create an extinguished perimeter of approximately 30 metres around every structure. ATCO crews are also working in the community to restore power and repair damaged lines.

Today, winds will shift to the southwest, blowing towards Garden River. The backburning operation will help reduce the spread in the northeastern perimeter, however, there is an area of unburned fuel behind the backburned area. There is a low probability that the fire could generate embers that may spot across the river. Crews will monitor this area and inform the community immediately if spot fires occur.

There are 95 firefighters, 8 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.

An Agency Representative and Information officer from Wood Buffalo National Park has joined the Incident Management Team as the fire has now crossed the boundary into the park.

## **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 in the mid-20 degrees and a relative humidity of 15 percent. Southeast becoming southwest winds of 10-20 gusting to 30 km/h will continue throughout the day.



## 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](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)**



Ignition operations on the Paskwa Fire as seen from the community of Garden River, May 17, 2023