



## The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 1, 2023, at 10:00 AM

There was some relief from the smoke in Garden River yesterday as good venting conditions had smoke rising straight up. This created visible smoke columns, but air quality was improved. Winds were light, and fire behaviour was moderate.

One of the top priorities is to protect the community of Garden River. The area ignited on May 30 was holding well yesterday. When conditions are favourable, fire specialists will look at completing the planned ignition line. The intent is to remove forest fuels in an area between the Peace River and the northeastern edge of the fire to help prevent fire spread north towards the community of Garden River. Crews and helicopters bucketing continue to work along the entire north-northeast perimeter to remove fuels and extinguish hot spots, keeping the fire south of the Peace River.

In Garden River, installation of the high-volume water system and additional sprinkler systems is complete. Today, crews will finish installing an additional water line along the eastern edge of the community. Structural fire fighters remain on standby, ready to respond if needed.



*High-volume water pumps, C.Siddall*

Currently, the most significant on-the-ground fire suppression work is in Fox Lake. Most of the wildland firefighters on the incident are working in the community. Work continues to assess and remove danger trees, and to extinguish 75m (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 Nation 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 southern perimeter, extending the fire guard in the southwest by extinguishing an area 30m (100 ft) wide along the line to prevent fire spread. To the east, beyond the fire guard, ground crews are extinguishing hot spots along the southern perimeter with support from helicopters bucketing.

There are currently 202 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 12 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.

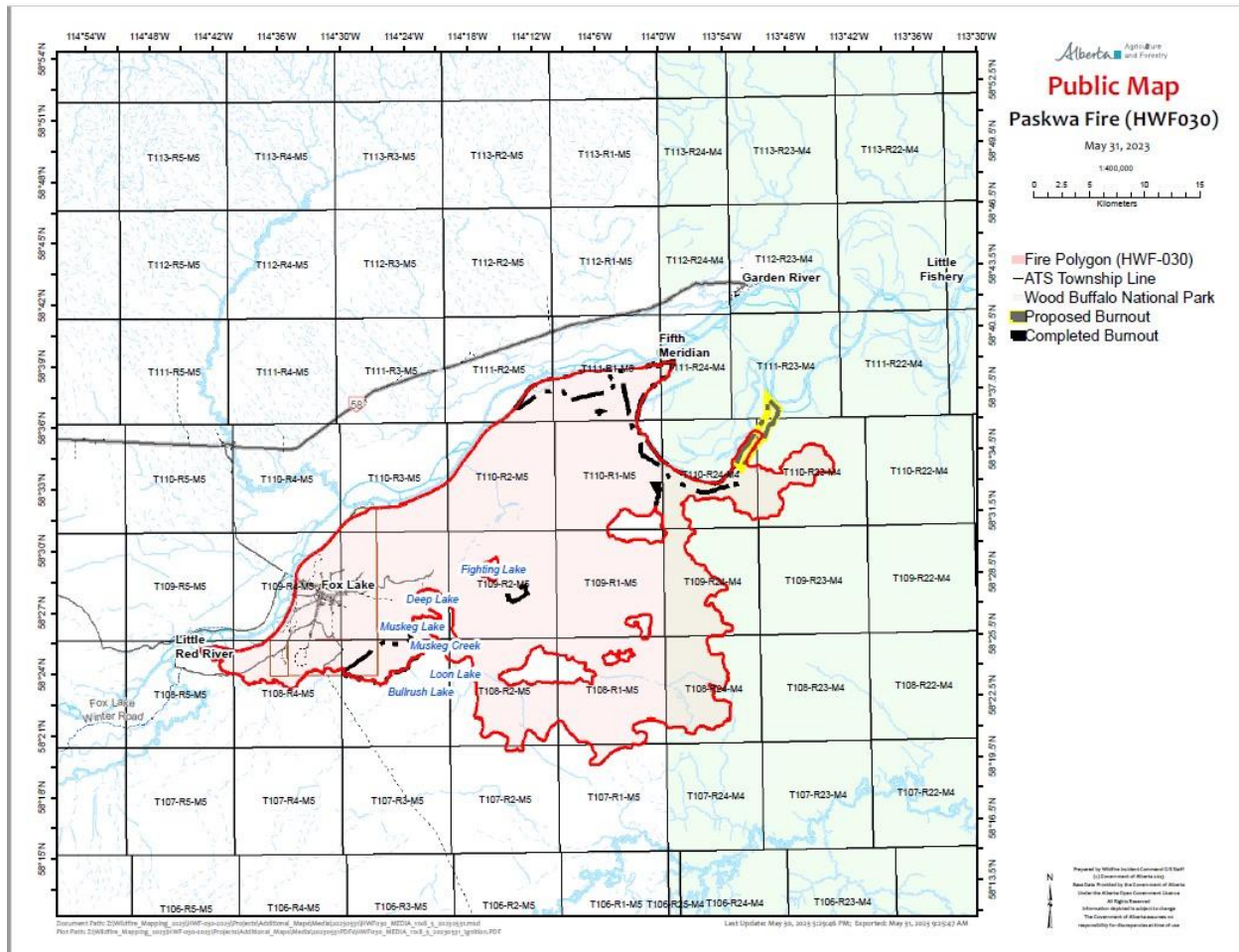


## Background

The Paskwa fire was detected on May 2, 2023, in the community of Fox Lake. As of May 31, the fire is estimated at 88,094 hectares (880.94 km<sup>2</sup>). This fire is classified as Out of Control (OC).

## Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Extreme dry conditions continue. Today, temperatures are expected in the low-20s in degrees Celsius (around 69°F) with winds from the west at 15 km/h (9 mph) with possibly gusting to 30 km/h (19 mph).



## 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](https://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)**