



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

The top priorities for managing the Paskwa Fire are full extinguishment of fire in Fox Lake, protecting Garden River, and working toward securing the fire perimeter to prevent significant fire spread. Yesterday, GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping of the fire perimeter was completed to give a more accurate fire size. The Paskwa Fire is currently 94,172 ha.

We are expected wildfire activity to increase today due to the dry conditions and incoming cold front that will bring wind shifts and there is a potential for lightning. It is extremely smoky in the community of Fox Lake but ground crews are still present. Today, crews will be working to extinguish hotspots and remove danger trees along Ribbonleg Road and will continue as they expand their work outwards to Prairie Road and other areas in Fox Lake.

Work continues along the entire north-northeast perimeter to remove remaining forest fuels and extinguish hot spots, keeping the fire south of the Peace River. Today, fire crews are working near 5th Meridian and will continue east, working along the oxbow to extinguish hot spots within the fire perimeter. There are many spotty areas within the perimeter, and this will take time for crews to extinguish. Helicopters will also bucket in the area. This area is a priority to prevent fire spread north across the Peace River and to protect the community of Garden River.

Helicopters will continue bucketing along the southeast perimeter, and today ground crews will continue with fire suppression in this area if smoky conditions allow. Once this work is completed the crews will move upwards to the northeast flank of the wildfire.

Firefighters will work to extinguish hotspots from Little Red River moving to Muskeg Creek.



Work continues in Fox Lake to extinguish 75m (250 ft) perimeters around structures and the removal of danger trees. Heavy equipment is working around larger hotspot areas where there is still potential for fire spread to contain the fire while crews work to extinguish these hotspots.

The high-volume water system, water lines, and sprinkler systems on structures are in place in the community of Garden River and structural firefighters will be available as needed. These are proactive measures to ensure the community is prepared should the fires move closer to Garden River.



There are currently 130 personnel supporting the Paskwa Fire response consisting of wildland and structural firefighters, incident management staff, and Paskwa Fire Base support staff. There are also 11 helicopters and 19 pieces of heavy equipment dedicated to the Paskwa fire.

## **Davidson Lake fires (Wildfires 8, 9, 13, 14) – Wood Buffalo National Park**

The fires in the Davidson Lake area are approximately 47,907 hectares combined and located 26 km northeast of Garden River. Yesterday, Fire 14 again did not pass Trident Creek, but may see some growth today with expected extreme fire behaviour conditions.

Fire specialists will keep monitoring Fire 14 today to try to hold the fire to Trident creek. They will also look for ignition opportunities to limit the fire's spread by bringing it to natural features such as creeks and wet areas. One crew continues to assess cabins in the area and maintain sprinkler systems already in place. A new crew arrived yesterday and will be based out of the Paskwa fire base with one helicopter, which will make maintaining structure protection faster and more efficient.

Eight bulldozers and two excavators officially completed the first fire guard along the boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park yesterday and finished half of Dozer Line A, a second fuel break line in the park, between the community of Garden River and Fire 14. Today, they'll continue working toward completion of the second guard.

One fire crew, a helicopter and 4 fire specialists are now based in the Garden River area. Incident Management Team members are working on options to move more personnel to the Garden River area to manage the Davidson Lake Fires more efficiently.

For more information on this wildfire please visit [Wood Buffalo National Park wildfire updates - Wood Buffalo National Park \(canada.ca\)](#)

## **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 and [Alberta Emergency Alert | Alberta.ca](#)

## **Background**

The Paskwa fire was detected on May 2, 2023. It extends along the south side of the Peace River from the community of Fox Lake into Wood Buffalo National Park and is approximately 8 km south of the community of Garden River. The wildfire is estimated at 94,172 hectares. This fire is classified as out of control (OC).



## Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Today, a daytime temperature of 31°C is expected with southwest winds of 20-25 km/h with gusts of 45 km/h. After the cold front moves through winds will be out of the west at 20 km/h with gusts of 35 km/h.

### 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/wildfire-updates) (parks.canada.ca\woodbuffalo)

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