



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 12, 2023, at 2:30 PM

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 94,477 ha.

Smoke is still lingering smoke in the community of Fox Lake and ground crews are still working in the community actioning smokes with bucketing operations. 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 around the community as they work in stages. These crews will be moved to action any flare-ups that will take priority.

Work continues along the entire northeast perimeter to extinguish hot spots, working to keep the fire south of the Peace River. Today, firefighters 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, and this will take time for crews to extinguish. Helicopters will also support by bucketing in the area. Aircraft is also monitoring the area for any spotting. 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 the area. Once this work is completed the crews will move upwards to the northeast flank of the wildfire. Most of the heat from the wildfire is located on this flank. There was some movement on the southeast corner, but it is being managed by helicopter bucketing.

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 136 personnel supporting the Paskwa Fire response consisting of wildland and structural firefighters, incident management staff, and Paskwa Fire Base support staff. There are also 10 helicopters and 19 pieces of heavy equipment dedicated to the Paskwa fire.

Davidson Lake fires (Wildfires 8, 9, 11, 13, 14) – Wood Buffalo National Park

The fires in the Davidson Lake area are approximately 49,864 hectares combined and located 23 km northeast of Garden River.

Yesterday, Fire 14 saw significant fire behaviour on the north flank, driven by shifting winds. Fire specialists conducted a second ignition operation to back the fire into Trident Creek to limit the potential of the fire crossing Trident Creek, and so far this has held. This operation was supported by two helicopters from the Paskwa Fire in the Province of Alberta.

The team will continue to monitor for opportunities to conduct these indirect suppression tactics to limit spread of the fire towards the community and values. Forecast rain later next week may allow for direct suppression efforts to occur along the flank closest to Garden River.

Eight bulldozers and two excavators continued building control lines, moving south from dozer line A towards the Peace River.

Crews maintained structure protection around the cabin closest to the southwest flank of the fire. A crew continues to be based out of the Paskwa fire base with one helicopter, in order to continue assessing cabins and maintaining sprinkler systems already in place in the area more easily and 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 94,477 hectares. This fire is classified as out of control (OC).



Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Today, a daytime temperature of 24°C is expected with northeast winds of 10 km/h.

Current information on wildfires in Alberta:

- 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](#) (parks.canada.ca\woodbuffalo)

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