



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 15, 2023, at 2:00 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. The Paskwa wildfire is currently 96,582 ha.

Smoke is still lingering 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 Prairie Road, Laboucan Road and other priority areas around the community as they work in stages. These crews will be moved to action any surface fire if it arises in other areas.

Work near 5th Meridian has been completed as much as possible but will continue to be monitored if anything changes. The crews that were working in the 5th Meridian will be assessing and actioning new work in the oxbow on the northeast edge. The area of 5th Meridian is still a priority area that we will monitor to prevent fire spread north across the Peace River and to protect the community of Garden River.

Today, ground crews will continue with fire suppression in the southeast flank of the fire. In the previous days there was some movement in the area and the fire spread into the edge of Ruis Lake creating a natural fire break and extinguishment zone.

Firefighters will work to extinguish hotspots from Little Red River moving to Muskeg Creek enforcing the perimeter as this area is not contained at this time.



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 when conditions are right. Crews will work with water trucks and hand tools 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.



Many aerial scans have been completed over the course of this wildfire event and the information we receive from the data gives the operations team a better plan of where the deep burning hotspots in the area are located. Under these cool temperatures we are able to pro-actively action these hotspots that might not be visible on the surface with a combination of handtools and water.

There are currently 140 personnel supporting the Paskwa Fire response consisting of wildland and structural firefighters, incident management staff, and Paskwa Fire Base support staff. There are also 12 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 - June 15, 2023

Yesterday, Fire 11 and 14 merged along the northern edge of Fire 14. Fire personnel flew over Fire 14 yesterday morning and observed calm fire behaviour along the edge closest to the community. The fire hasn't experienced significant growth since yesterday's update.

The Davidson Lake Fires are approximately 22.5 km from Garden River and 7.2 km from the trigger point for community evacuation.

Fire specialists will continue monitoring fire behaviour and weather conditions, which will ensure a timely recommendation for evacuation of Garden River, if needed.

Weather forecasts had called for potential precipitation in the Garden River area; however, no rain fell locally. Fire specialists are continuing to look at several options to continue limiting the fire, including dozer guards close to the fire's edge (tightlining). Yesterday they scouted for new potential ignition line west of Fire 14.

Dozers continued clearing lines along the old Fort Smith highway yesterday to gain better access to the southwestern side of the fire and continue building fuel breaks as required. Improved access to this area will potentially help in the future if direct suppression efforts by crews are possible.

Crews again checked on cabins and infrastructure at risk yesterday and confirmed known values have yet to be impacted by fires in the area. Crews added structure protection on two additional cabins and maintained pre-existing sprinkler systems on other values in the area. They'll continue to maintain structure protection today.

The Davidson Lake Fires are approximately 49,864 hectares combined as of June 11.

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 96,582 hectares. This fire is classified as out of control (OC).

Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Today, a daytime temperature of 21°C degrees with winds out of the northwest at 15 km/h with gusts of 30 km/h. Relative humidity will be 30% this moisture in the air will aid in suppression efforts for firefighters. More moisture content in the air will allow firefighters to make up ground in more areas as wildfire activity will be low at this time.

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)