



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 16, 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. The Paskwa wildfire is currently 96,582 ha.

Smoke is heavy this morning 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 within the community as they're spotted. These crews will be moved to action any surface fire if it arises in other areas of Fox Lake.

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 performing mop-up duties in the oxbow on the northeast edge. Mop-up means that crews will walk the line from one point to another feeling the ground for any heat. Once heat is spotted firefighters will work with hand tools to stir up the material and water will be added to cool the heat. 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. The southeast fire spread into the edge of Ruis Lake creating a natural fire break and extinguishment zone and hasn't moved in the past few days.

Firefighters will work to extinguish hotspots from Little Red River moving to Muskeg Creek enforcing the perimeter as this area is still not contained at this time. Aerial scanning has been planned for the area to get a better location of hotspots for firefighters and bucketing operations.



Work has been completed in Fox Lake to extinguish 75m (250 ft) perimeters around structures, the removal of danger trees is ongoing. Crews have moved to the roadways to extinguish hotspots. Heavy equipment is working around larger hotspot areas where there is still potential for fire spread when conditions are right.

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 151 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 - 9PM

The forecasted weather has changed from the last fire predictions from 8:30pm and there is better news. The winds will be coming from the South tomorrow, so the fire will be burning onto itself and away from the community. The wind has already died down will continue overnight. As fire behaviour picks up mid-day tomorrow, Davidson Lake Fires should be receiving approximately 5 mm of rain in the afternoon that will decrease the fire activity for the next day or two. Even if it does not rain, the fire will not reach the trigger line tomorrow.

Today, fire personnel observed higher intensity in the southwest corner of Fire 14, with the wind coming from the north gusting to 25 km/hr. It grew approximately 600 m today and is now 6.6 km from the community evacuation trigger line.

We'll be meeting with the community tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. to discuss a new potential guard to be put in north of the community, along the park boundary line.

Dozers continued to push forward along the old Fort Smith highway today and were able to get approximately 3km from the edge of the fire. This will enable easier access for pushing another dozer guard along the fire's edge (known as tightlining) and in the future, as weather and fire conditions allow, the ability for ground crews to action the fire safely. The dozers kept pushing along the highway but were pulled off as fire behaviour increased later in the afternoon. Tomorrow, they will try to push to one of the values in the area that is located adjacent to the road. This work will depend on fire activity and, if not possible, dozers may start work on the northern park boundary guard if the community supports the proposed plan.

Parks crews continued today to maintain structure protection on values in the area. A US hotshot crew helped with maintaining sprinkler systems today too and looked at potential hand ignition opportunities around one cabin close to the fire's edge to provide added protection from the encroaching fire.

Tomorrow, the wind will be coming from the SE/SW, with relative humidity between 35-40%. We are planning to have helicopters doing bucketing along the western edge throughout the morning.

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 20°C degrees with winds out of the west at 15 km/h with gusts of 35km/h. Relative humidity will be 40% 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](#) 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)