



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 17, 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 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 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. Smoke and cloud cover has lifted enough for helicopters to fly and move crews to priority areas. The area of 5th Meridian is still a high-priority area that we will monitor to prevent fire spread north across the Peace River and to protect the community of Garden River.

The southeast flank of the 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 this morning 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 250 ft outwards. 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 137 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 fire (Wildfires 8, 9, 11, 13, 14) – Wood Buffalo National Park - June 16, 2023 - 9PM

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

It was a transition day today on the Davidson Lake Fires, as a few Incident Management personnel had their last days on the fire and several new folks arrived to Paskwa camp to start their shifts within the new Unified Command between Parks Canada and Alberta Wildfire. Tomorrow will be the first day under this new structure.

Fire 14 was just measured at 6.2 kilometres from the community evacuation trigger point, so we saw minimal growth again today on the fire. There was very low visibility this morning which prevented aircraft from taking off. Crews were able to fly later in the afternoon and they started their circuit of maintaining structure protection on values in the area.

Dozers started work on the guard to the north of Garden River, along the park boundary line. This line was presented and discussed at a community meeting in Garden River this afternoon.

Wind tomorrow is forecasted to be from the west, pushing the fire to the east and away from the community. Winds should be 15 km/hr gusting to 35 km/hr.

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 19°C degrees with winds out of the west at 15 km/h with gusts of 35km/h. Relative humidity will be 50% 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)