



## The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 18, 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 oxbow performing mop-up duties on the northeast edge have completed their work and have been moved to the Davidson fire. The area of 5th Meridian and within the oxbow 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 was completed for the area and data will be analyzed by the operations team. Scanning helps 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.



Parks Canada and Alberta Wildfire have come together in Unified Command, allowing these two agencies to work together closely and share resources to protect the community of 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.

## **Davidson Lake fire (Wildfires 8, 9, 11, 13, 14) – Wood Buffalo National Park – June 18**

Today management of the Davidson Lake Fires moved to Unified Command with the province of Alberta.

The western edge of **Fire 14** was active yesterday, helicopters were bucketing along this edge all day yesterday and will be doing the same today, with the objective of holding the fire at Trident Creek.

Dozers kept moving up to the western edge and cleared another safety zone closer to the fire's edge. These safety zones are being made so ground crews can work safely along the perimeter of the fire in the future as conditions allow.

There was good progress yesterday on the guard being made to the north of Garden River at the park boundary line. The dozers were able to get 1.5 kilometres along the route and will be mindful of avoiding areas that were identified by community members at the June 16th community meeting as they continue.

Crews once again ran structure protection systems on cabins and infrastructure in the areas near the fire and installed rain gauges at the three cabins closest to the fire's edges to help fire specialists get a more accurate measurement of rainfall near the fires. Fire specialists are proactively creating plans for small-scale ignition work around some of the values in the area, so that any future burnouts are well thought out and safely implemented.

Davidson Lake Fires were last estimated at **91,079 hectares** and remains **6.2 km from the community evacuation trigger line**.

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).

## Resources

There are currently 144 personnel supporting the Paskwa/Davidson 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/Davidson fire.

## Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Today, a daytime temperature of 19°C degrees with winds out of the northeast at 15-20 km/h shifting to north-northeast at 20-25 with gusts of 40 km/h. Relative humidity will be 45% 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.

14.5 mm of rain has been recorded in Garden River after the rain showers yesterday evening. As the firefighters move to the line this morning, we will be able to get a more accurate reading for rain on the Paskwa and Davidson wildfires.

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

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