



## The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 22, 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 hand tools and water. Crews will continue to remove danger trees 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.

**There are light-medium smokes surfacing in Fox Lake from within the burned-out fire perimeter as crews pile and burn off debris. This is a controlled and monitored practise to get rid of unwanted downed trees that have been piled to burn off and clean-up the wildfire zone. These burning piles are burning on bare mineral soil and are located away from any structures in town.**



Now that work has been completed in Fox Lake to extinguish 75m (250 ft) perimeters around structures 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 will be ongoing. The information we receive from the data gives the operations team a better plan of action as to where the deep burning hotspots in the area.



## Davidson Lake fire (Wildfires 8, 9, 11, 13, 14) – Wood Buffalo National Park – June 22

After a combination of aerial assessment and satellite data, the fire size for the Davidson Lake Fires is currently estimated to be 97,230 hectares.

Chief Conroy Sewepagaham along with Councillor Leslie Joe Laboucan were up in the helicopter yesterday to gain situational awareness of both the Paskwa Fire and the Davidson Lakes Fires. It was an active day on the Davidson Lake Fires, particularly along the southern end of the fire. The fire has not moved towards Garden River and remains approximately 6.2km from the evacuation trigger.

The small spot fire near the south end of the fire around Trident Creek that was first observed on Sunday was secured by crews on the ground yesterday. It is currently contained and is boxed in by retardant; crews have a hose lay to the edge of the spot. Fire specialists will continue to monitor this area and it will continue to be actioned by crews on the ground. Bucketing operations continued along the head of the fire to limit spread, and this work will continue as needed today to address hotspots along the perimeter.

A new section of dozer line was established yesterday, running south along the edge of the fire from the old Peace Point Road to a wet area. It connects with the existing north dozer guard and will help keep that section of the fire from moving any further west. Heavy equipment will begin walking up towards the east flank of the fire over the next few days in order to create access for crews to respond with direct suppression, to keep the fire from hooking in towards Garden River from the north.

Crews are continuing to check on cabins in the vicinity of the fire and have been running sprinklers to keep the areas around them wetted down.

The community dozer guard north of Garden River is now complete, crews will work on cleaning this up today and then continue to widen the guard.

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 101 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)/ Davidson (Wildfires 8, 9, 11, 13, 14)

Today, a daytime temperature of 21°C degrees with winds out of the east-southeast at 10-15 km/h. Relative humidity will be 35% which is less moisture than we've seen in the last few days and we're preparing to see an increase in fire behavior this afternoon and into the weekend as we start to see hot and dry conditions.

## 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)**