



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 23, 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.

Today, heavy 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.



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 still 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. These systems are tested every morning for efficiency in the equipment.

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 for the Davidson wildfire.

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 23

After a combination of aerial assessment and satellite data, the fire size for the Davidson Lake Fires is currently estimated to be **104,879 hectares**. This estimate includes Fires 8, 9, 11, 13 and 14, as all fires are being reported as one complex.

It was a much quieter day on the Davidson Lake Fires yesterday. Cooler temperatures, higher relative humidity, cloud cover and even a few scattered showers helped to keep fire behaviour down in most areas of the fire throughout the day. Helicopter bucketing continued, as required, and crews took advantage of the conditions to action new hotspots and further secure the perimeter. This work will continue today.

The dozer group on the western flank continues to push north, with the goal of tying the dozer line in to Trident Creek and burned out areas to the north. Today, the dozers will work in time with ground crews to do a combination of direct suppression along the perimeter while also continuing to tie the dozer guard into the creek, to keep the fire on the east side of Trident Creek. The team has brought in additional Nodwells so that firefighters can extinguish hotspots along the dozer guard with pumps and hose.

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 guard north of Garden River is now complete. Yesterday, crews began widening the guard from 30 meters to 100 meters wide and have approximately 1.4km left to complete today. Once this is finished, an additional guard will be put in south of Highway 58 towards the Peace River at the request of Little Red River Cree Nation. This additional guard will ensure that the community of Garden River is protected from all directions and limit the threat from future fires in the area.

For more information on this wildfire please visit [Wood Buffalo National Park wildfire updates - Wood Buffalo National Park \(canada.ca\)](https://www.alberta.ca/wood-buffalo-national-park-wildfire-updates)

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](https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-emergency-alert)

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 27°C degrees with winds out of the southwest at 10-15 km/h shifting to the northeast at 15-20 km/h in the afternoon. Relative humidity will be 40%. Due to the higher temperatures, we can expect to see an increase in fire behavior in the afternoon. Bucketing operations will be utilized heavy today as we prepare for potential flare-ups on these fires.

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)