



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 3, 2023, at 10:00 AM

Winds were light yesterday, and fire behaviour was moderate. Poor visibility due to smoke limited work in some areas but overall good progress was made. The top priorities for managing the Paskwa Fire are still full extinguishment of fire in Fox Lake, protecting Garden River, and working toward securing the fire perimeter to prevent significant fire spread. Weather conditions remain hot and dry with winds from the east.

Previous ignition operations, or intentional burns, were used to remove forest fuels and create a fireguard between the community of Garden River and the northeast perimeter of the Paskwa Fire. Some hot spots remain within the fireguard as well as pockets of unburned trees. Helicopters have been bucketing the hot spots and sprinkler systems have been set up in the area near Fifth Meridian. If conditions are favourable, some targeted ignition may take place, using a heli-torch to burn off remaining fuels. The goal is the full extinguishment of fire within the fireguard. Some smoke and flames may be visible during the operation.



Sunset on the fire line_ Chief Sewepagaham

Crews and helicopters continue working along the entire north-northeast perimeter to remove fuels and extinguish hot spots, keeping the fire south of the Peace River.

The high-volume water system, water lines, and sprinkler systems on structures are in place in the community of Garden River. These are proactive measures to ensure the community is prepared should the fire move closer to Garden River.

Work continues in Fox Lake to extinguish 75m (250 ft) perimeters around structures and remove danger trees. With continued warm and dry conditions, hot spots around the community becoming more active. Heavy equipment will clear around some larger fire areas to remove forest fuels and help contain the fire while crews work to extinguish it.

Good progress has been made along the southwest perimeter, extending the fire guard by extinguishing an area 30m (100 ft) wide along the line to prevent fire spread. A fire crew worked on extinguishing hot spots on the southern perimeter near Un'sko'wask'wah Lake. Helicopters were not able to access the southeastern perimeter yesterday due to low visibility. If smoke conditions improve, that work will continue today.

There are currently 183 personnel supporting the Paskwa Fire response including wildland and structural firefighters, incident management staff, heavy equipment operators, and Paskwa Fire Base support staff, as well as 12 helicopters dedicated to the Paskwa fire. Three additional heavy helicopters have been supporting fire operations over the last week.



Testing the high-volume water system in Garden River, Fire Chief Schmidt

Davidson Complex – Wood Buffalo National Park

Davidson Complex consists of four fires (Fires 8, 9, 13 and 14) in the Davidson Lake area of Wood Buffalo National Park. Combined, the fires are around 22,124 hectares in size. The Davidson Complex is approximately 25km east of the community of Garden River. The fires do not currently pose a risk to the community. Poor visibility due to smoke continues to create challenges with monitoring this fire. Where possible, fire personnel are maintaining sprinkler systems on at-risk cabins. Fire specialists are assessing containment options for this complex.

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.

Background

The Paskwa fire was detected on May 2, 2023, in the community of Fox Lake. As of this morning, the fire is estimated at 93,749 hectares (937.49 km²). This fire is classified as Out of Control (OC).

Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Extreme dry conditions continue. Today, temperatures are expected in the high-20s in °C (around 80°F) with winds from the east. Winds are expected to be 20 km/h (12 mph).

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)