



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 4, 2023, at 10:00 AM

Winds continued from the east yesterday and fire operations targeted some key objectives on the east side of the fire. 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. An abrupt wind shift and gusty winds are forecast for today. These conditions could lead to extreme and/or erratic fire behaviour. Today's operations will be adjusted accordingly to ensure the safety of those on the fireline.

Yesterday, fire specialists used a heli-torch to burn remaining forest fuels within the fireguard on the northeast perimeter of the Paskwa Fire. Removing remaining pockets of unburned trees, followed up with helicopters bucketing, will help achieve full extinguishment of this part of the fireguard. Sprinklers are in place around 5th Meridian and hose line laid along the perimeter in that area. Today, helicopters will continue bucketing in the northeast as visibility and winds allow. The fireguard is in place to prevent fire spread north of the Peace River and to protect the community of Garden River.

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.

Four fixed-wing aircraft were dispatched yesterday afternoon to assist with aerial suppression on the Paskwa Fire. The bombers were dropping retardant along the southeast perimeter adjacent to Wood Buffalo National Park to prevent further fire spread south.

Crews are completing work on the fireguard along the southwest perimeter. Drone scans will help confirm if there are any remaining hot spots. If smoke and weather conditions allow, helicopters will continue bucketing along the southeast perimeter.



High-volume sprinkler, Marty Dickson

The high-volume water system, water lines, and sprinkler systems on structures are in place in the community of Garden River, and structural firefighters remain on standby. 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 continues to clear around some larger fire areas to remove forest fuels and help contain the fire while crews work to extinguish it.

There are currently 182 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.



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.



Hot spotting, Buddy Meneen

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. As of this morning, the fire is estimated at 95,338 hectares (953.38 km²). This fire is classified as Out of Control (OC).

Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

An abrupt wind change is forecast from southeast to southwest later today. Wind gusts of 35 – 45 km/h are expected. Extreme dry conditions continue with a forecast high of 29°C (84°F).

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)