



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 6, 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. Yesterday, GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping of the fire perimeter was completed to give a more accurate fire size. The Paskwa Fire is currently 93,310 ha (933.1 km²).

Last night some areas of the fire did receive precipitation and, combined with good overnight recovery (low temperatures and high humidity), fire activity is expected to be low.

Work continues along the entire north-northeast perimeter to remove remaining forest fuels and extinguish hot spots, keeping the fire south of the Peace River. Yesterday, fire crews started near 5th Meridian and will continue east, working along the oxbow to extinguish hot spots within the northeast fireguard. Helicopters were also bucketing in the area. The fireguard is a priority to prevent fire spread north across the Peace River and to protect the community of Garden River.

Helicopters continue bucketing along the southeast perimeter, and today, if conditions are favourable, ground crews will begin fire suppression in this area.

Yesterday, work was completed to secure the fire perimeter from Little Red River to Muskeg Creek, extinguishing remaining hot spots. The area will continue to be monitored for activity using heat scans from helicopter.



Excavator and crews extinguishing hot spots, Buddy Meneen

Work continues in Fox Lake to extinguish 75m (250 ft) perimeters around structures and remove danger trees. Heavy equipment is establishing guard lines around larger areas where there is still potential for fire spread to contain the fire while crews work to extinguish these hot spots.

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 fires move closer to Garden River.

There are currently 197 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 11 helicopters dedicated to the Paskwa fire.



Firetruck by the Peace River in Garden River, Leonard Minish



Davidson Lake fires – Wood Buffalo National Park

There is no current risk to Garden River from the Davidson Lake fires. The fires are approximately 29,777 hectares combined and located 26 km northeast of Garden River. Yesterday, Wood Buffalo National Park fire personnel mapped a more accurate perimeter of the fires and observed more moderate fire behaviour like surface fire with a few torching trees, likely due to higher humidity and lower temperatures. Fire specialists will be discussing potential containment options along the eastern edge of Fire 14 with Little Red River Cree Nation this week. These options could include ignition work and putting in fuel breaks using heavy equipment like dozers.

In the past few days, crews have installed structure protection on over 12 cabins in the area. They've been visiting and maintaining the sprinkler systems for the last three days.

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. 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 93,310 hectares (933.1 km²). This fire is classified as Out of Control (OC).

Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Today, a daytime temperature of 21°C is expected with southwest winds of around 25 – 30 km/h (15 – 18 mph) gusting to 45 km/h (28 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)