



The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 8, 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 93,311 ha.

Wildfire activity did pick-up yesterday due to the very high winds and the hotspots in the area did begin to smoke more than before but bucket support from helicopters and ground crews were able to action and maintain control in the area of Fox Lake. Yesterday, crews were working to extinguish hotspots and remove danger trees along Ribbonleg Road and will continue as they expand their work outwards to other areas in Fox Lake.

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 fire perimeter. 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 ground crews will continue with fire suppression in this area. Once this work is completed the crews will move upwards to the northeast flank of the wildfire.

Firefighters will work to extinguish hotspots from Little Red River moving to Muskeg Creek. The area will continue to be monitored for activity using heat scans from helicopter. Scanning is being completed in stages today and into the weekend for hotspots in and around the community of Fox Lake.



Work continues in Fox Lake to extinguish 75m (250 ft) perimeters around structures and the removal of 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 hotspots.

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.



There are currently 105 personnel supporting the Paskwa Fire response consisting of wildland and structural firefighters, incident management staff, and Paskwa Fire Base support staff. There are also 12 helicopters and 10 pieces of heavy equipment dedicated to the Paskwa fire.

Davidson Lake fires – Wood Buffalo National Park

The fires in the Davidson Lake area are approximately 29,777 hectares combined and located 26 km northeast of Garden River.

Three bulldozers and one excavator started to create a fire guard on the boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park and made great progress. They will finish the guard this morning and begin work along the old road to Peace Point to access the location where they will construct a second containment line.

Fire specialists were hopeful for an opportunity to begin ignition work yesterday to attempt to hold Fire 14 at Trident Creek, but wind shifts created smokier conditions, making it too difficult to continue. They will look for more ignition windows in the coming days.

Fire growth was primarily wind driven yesterday, with the most action seen on the northern flank of the fire. Fire personnel observed a lot of smoke yesterday on Fire 14, so Garden River may experience smoky conditions today.

Crews continued to install structure protection on cabins and other infrastructure in the area, primarily on structures pointed out to fire personnel by the community at Tuesday morning's meeting. Crews also continued to maintain sprinkler systems already in place.

The Davidson Lake Fires have not seen any significant rainfall and extreme dry conditions will continue today.

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 93,311 hectares. This fire is classified as out of control (OC).



Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Today, a daytime temperature of 26°C is expected with northeast winds of 10-15 km/h.

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)