



WILDFIRE UPDATE

Elephant Hill Wildfire

September 21, 2017

Fire Size: 192,725 hectares (estimated)

Status: Active, being held, 95% contained

Resources: 284 firefighters, an incident management team, structural protection personnel, support staff, 3 helicopters, and 21 pieces of heavy equipment.

Update:

The recent scattered precipitation and cooler conditions have allowed crews to make good progress on the Elephant Hill wildfire. This fire is now 95% contained. Firefighters continue to action identified hotspots and patrol the area. Danger tree assessment is ongoing, and we encourage caution around these trees. The Elephant Hill area restriction under Section 11 of the *Wildfire Act* still remains in effect. This restriction continues to restrict public access to crown land in the area of the fire, except for residences and some commercial operators.

Commercial businesses that engage in an activity that uses the foreshore or Crown land covered by water (i.e. lakes) are allowed. This is in addition to the existing clauses that allow for travel to and from owned residences; leased or rented secondary or recreational property; commercial activity within the regular course or business on private or leased land; and some others as noted in the order. For more information on this area restriction, visit:

<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=2898>



FireSmart Information

Wildfire prevention for your home and community:

Preparing for the threat of wildfire is a shared responsibility. Homeowners, communities, industry and government all have responsibility to lessen the effects of wildfire.

The BC Wildfire Service encourages individuals and communities to learn more about the FireSmart program, which is focused on reducing the risk of wildfire around homes and communities. FireSmart is a national initiative to help property owners and communities understand the ways in which wildfire might threaten structures and property located in, and close to, forested and wildland areas. It also identifies steps individuals and communities can take to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire. Being FireSmart means living with and managing for wildfire on our landscape.

At home:

Start with taking precautions to minimize the likelihood of igniting a fire on your property. For example, ensure that lawn equipment has a working spark arrestor fitted to prevent sparks from exiting through the exhaust pipe and take care to fully extinguish cigarettes and dispose of them safely.

Use FireSmart principles to minimize susceptibility of your buildings and property to wildfire. This is especially important and timely for homes and property recently impacted by wildfire since many of the actions can be taken during the repair and rebuild phase following a wildfire.



WILDFIRE UPDATE

Examples of FireSmart actions you can take at home include:

- Building with fire-resistant materials such as metal roofing
- Clearing all plants and other vegetation from within 10 meters of a structure
- Considering your landscaping choices and choosing to plant deciduous species such as birch and aspen rather than coniferous trees

Ensuring that no trees or other vegetation overhang the roof of a structure

The [FireSmart Homeowner's Manual](#) (PDF) is particularly useful for identifying the choices you can make to help protect your house and property from wildfire. This manual also provides helpful advice on building materials when constructing or renovating your home. For other ways to protect your home, download the [FireSmart Guide to Landscaping](#) or visit the [FireSmart website](#).

On your ranch or farm:

In addition to the information provided for homeowners, the FireSmart program includes specific recommendations for ranches, farms and acreages. Topics include burning barrels, livestock evacuations, feed storage, managing fields and pastureland, fence lines and ditches, and more. Check out the [farm and acreage page](#) on the FireSmart website or read the [FireSmart Farm and Acreage Magazine](#) for more information.

In your community:

Communities benefit when they adopt programs of interface fire awareness and work together on effective preventative solutions.

The [FireSmart Communities program](#) recognizes the citizens of a community who work together with a FireSmart representative from a local government or agency to identify and mitigate wildfire hazards throughout their community. The program relies on the energy and spirit of a community joining together in an effort to reduce wildfire risk for everyone.

Funding may be available to communities who work to mitigate risk from wildfire in the wildland urban interface. For more information about the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative, please talk with your local municipal government or regional district for funding initiatives available that may benefit your community.

More information:

For more information about FireSmart Canada programs, please visit the FireSmart Canada website at <https://www.firesmartcanada.ca>. You can also request copies of the homeowner and landscaping manuals and start a conversation about becoming a FireSmart Recognized Community by contacting your local [BC Wildfire Service Fire Centre](#).

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION :

Information Officer: Erin Catherall 250 319-2480 FireK20637IN@gov.bc.ca

Information Officer: Jody Lucius 250 318-7456 FireK20637IN@gov.bc.ca



www.bcwildfire.ca



@BCForestFireInfo



@BCGovFireInfo



WILDFIRE UPDATE

Questions and Answers

Questions regarding evacuation alerts:

For information on evacuation alerts, please contact the Cariboo Regional District or the Thompson-Nicola Regional District

cariboord.bc.ca or call the Cariboo Regional District Emergency Information Line at 1-866-759-4977

tnrd.ca or contact the EOC Information Officer at 1-866-377-7188 or eocommunications@tnrd.ca

Area restrictions due to wildfires:

<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/DisplayBan.asp?!ID=499#ForestUseRestrictions>

Hunting regulations:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/regulations-synopsis>

Claims and Rehabilitation:

If you are interested in submitting a claim for compensation, please provide the following information to Kamloopsfirecentreclaims2017@gov.bc.ca:

- 1) your name and your location;
- 2) a brief description of the alleged damages/losses you are claiming and the date(s) occurred; and
- 3) the alleged cause or source of the losses/damages being claimed by you.

Claims for compensation will be investigated and then assessed in accordance with applicable legislation that may apply. For questions, comments or submissions regarding rehabilitation, please write to bcws.KFCrehabcoordinator@gov.bc.ca. A rehabilitation coordinator will follow up with you on those issues. These addresses should be used for the entire Elephant Hill wildfire (K20637), even for the portion of it within the Cariboo Fire Centre.

Important links:

Fire information on the Elephant Hill wildfire: <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp?ID=620>

Preparedness: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-the-risks/wildfires>

If anyone would like to be added to the distribution list to receive these community updates, please email:

FireK20637IN@gov.bc.ca