



CARIBOO FIRE CENTRE

2015.07.08

Wildfire Newsletter



A wildfire about 1.5 kilometres north of Watch Lake. The fire, discovered on the afternoon of July 7, is about 0.75 hectares in size. Airtankers covered the fire in retardant to support the helicopters and fire-fighters that are continuing suppression efforts today.

Compared to the rest of B.C., the Cariboo Fire Centre has been experiencing relatively low fire activity.

The BC Wildfire Service has been responding to three to five new wildfires each day over the past two weeks in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region. The majority of these have been small, lightning-caused fires. Crews, helicopters and airtankers have been successful at keeping the fires small and extinguishing them quickly.

That being said, the fire danger rating is “high” throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre and some areas are rated as “extreme.” Forest fuels are extremely dry and warm overnight temperatures are continuing to dry them out rapidly.

The Cariboo Fire Centre is anticipating lightning strikes on Friday, July 10, and continuing through the weekend.

With this in mind, the BC Wildfire Service cannot stress enough that the public is our first line of defence against forest fires. Please be diligent when in the backcountry and report all wildfires to 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on your mobile phone.

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Fires in the Cariboo Fire Centre since April 1, 2015

Zone	Fires	Hectares
Quesnel	13	170
Cariboo Chilcotin East	32	434
100 Mile House	42	25
Cariboo Chilcotin West	33	412

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CAMPFIRE BAN IN EFFECT



Effective at noon on Friday, July 3, 2015 all open burning, including campfires and fireworks, were prohibited throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre. This prohibition will remain in place until the public is otherwise notified.

This step was taken to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety. A map of the area covered by this open burning prohibition and campfire ban is available online at: <http://bit.ly/1LZTsle>

Specifically, prohibited activities include:

- * open fires of any size, including campfires
- * the use of fireworks, including firecrackers
- * the use of sky lanterns, tiki torches, or burning barrels or burning cages of any size or description
- * the use of binary exploding targets
- * the use of air curtain burners

This prohibition does not apply to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes. It also does not apply to a portable campfire apparatus with a CSA or ULC rating that uses briquettes, liquid or gaseous

fuel, with a flame length of 15 centimetres or less. The use of a portable campfire apparatus that does not meet these conditions is prohibited.

Anyone found in contravention of an open burning prohibition may be issued a ticket for \$345, required to pay an administrative penalty of \$10,000 or, if convicted in court, fined up to \$100,000 and/or sentenced to one year in jail. If the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs.

This prohibition applies to all BC Parks, Crown lands and private lands, but does not apply within the boundaries of local governments that have forest fire prevention bylaws in place and are serviced by fire departments. Please check with local government authorities for any other restrictions before lighting a fire.

To report a wildfire or an open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on your cellphone.

FIRE DANGER RATING

Forest Fire Danger



Currently, the forest fire danger rating is “high” throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre, with some areas of “extreme”.

The Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System is a national system for rating the risk of forest fires in Canada.

“Forest fire danger” is a general term used to express a variety of factors in the fire environment, such as ease of ignition and difficulty of control. Each situation is different and dependent on many factors, including fuel types, terrain, weather conditions, slope, etc.

Information is collected from networked, automated weather stations and then used to calculate the forest fire danger rating.

The Danger Class Ratings and their meanings are:

Very low (blue)	Very low risk of fire starting.
Low (green)	Low risk of fire starting.
Moderate (yellow)	Moderate risk of fire starting. Exercise caution in forested areas.
High (orange)	Serious risk of fire starting. Extreme caution must be used. Restrictions may be applied to burning reference numbers and industrial activities.
Extreme (red)	Extremely high risk of fire starting. General forest activities may be restricted, including burn reference numbers, industrial activities and campfires.

RECREATIONAL PRECAUTIONS



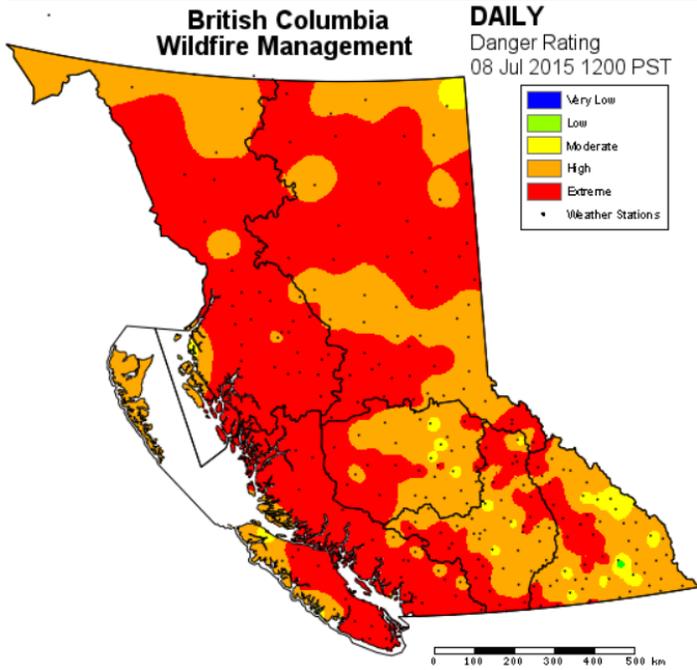
In hot and dry conditions, forests and grass are very susceptible to wildfires.

Keep in mind that improperly discarded cigarettes, vehicle exhaust, fireworks and sparks from equipment can easily ignite a fire.

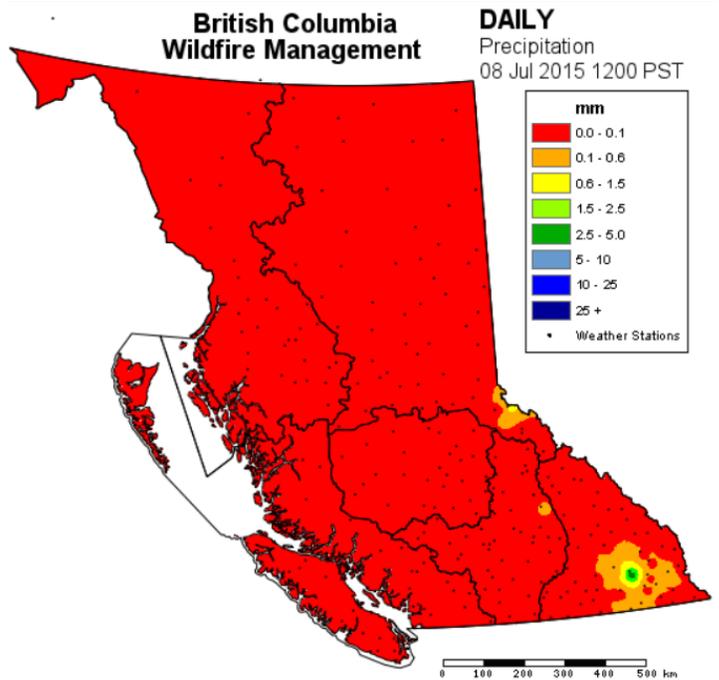
When there is an increase in the fire danger rating, the following precautions should be taken:

- Don't park motorcycles or ATVs on grass or areas where the exhaust system is close to combustible materials.
- Use an approved spark arrest on exhaust systems.
- Take all appropriate precautions with any other heat sources, such as campfires, outdoor stoves, barbecues or smoking materials.

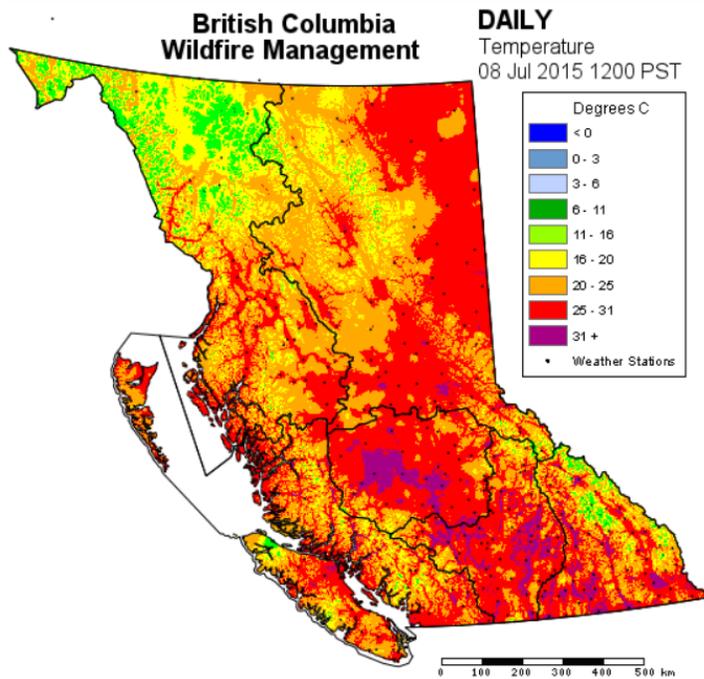
Fire Danger Rating



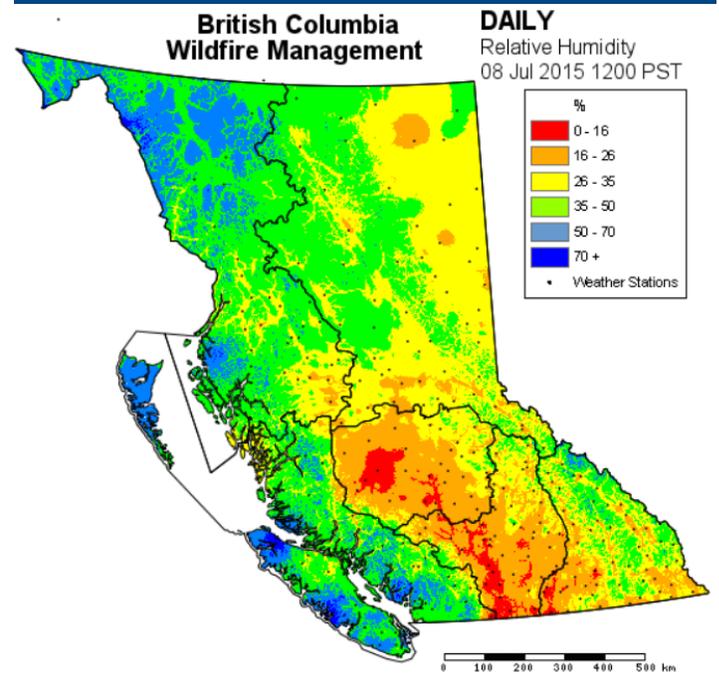
Precipitation



Temperature



Relative Humidity



These maps are current for July 8, 2015.

For the most recent weather maps, please see www.bcwildfire.ca/weather

These graphs are for informational purposes only and should not be used to make operational decisions.

Most Recent Forecast for the CFC

Valid as of 9am Wednesday July 8, 2015

SYNOPSIS: An upper ridge over the fire centre for today and tonight. The airmass is very warm, dry and fairly stable. Mainly sunny and very warm. Gusty late afternoon winds due to the strong heating. Poor overnight recoveries will continue. For Thursday the upper ridge is on a weakening trend. As the upper flow becomes more southerly there is the chance of some late day instability and a risk of a thunderstorm over southern parts of the fire centre.

Cariboo Fire Centre Statistics

Since April 1, 2015:

Fires to date: 120
Hectares burned: 1,040
Person-caused fires: 47
Lightning-caused fires: 73

2014 at this time:

Fires to date: 59
Hectares burned: 215
Person-caused fires: 40
Lightning-caused fires: 16

2013 at this time:

Fires to date: 57
Hectares burned: 1,068
Person-caused fires: 42
Lightning-caused fires: 13

WEST OF FRASER

TODAY: Sunny with a few afternoon clouds. Smokey. Winds westerly this afternoon but variable at times. Speeds 15 km/h with late afternoon gusts to 30 km/h. Minimum relative humidity 15 to 25%. Highs in the mid 30's C.

TONIGHT: Mainly clear skies. Winds light overnight except downslope to 15 km/h overnight at the higher levels. Poor overnight recoveries at the higher levels. Maximum relative humidity 60 to 75%. Low 10 to 15 C.

THURSDAY: Sunny with cloudy periods. Chance of a late day thunderstorm near the Coast Range. Winds westerly 15 to 20 km/h with gusts to 30 km/h late afternoon. Minimum relative humidity 15 to 25%. Highs low to mid 30's %.
Chance of lightning today 0%. Tomorrow 20%. Intense 0% today.

EAST OF FRASER

TODAY: Sunny with cloudy periods. Smokey. Winds northwest 15 to 20 km/h this afternoon. Minimum relative humidity 15 to 25%. Highs in the low 30's C.

TONIGHT: Mainly clear. Winds light overnight. Maximum relative humidity 60 to 75% with poor recoveries at the higher levels. Lows near 15 C.

THURSDAY: Mainly sunny. Winds westerly 15 to 20 km/h. Minimum relative humidity 15 to 25%. Highs in the low 30's C.
Chance of lightning today 0%. Tomorrow 10%. Intense 0% today.

3 TO 5 DAY OUTLOOK: FRIDAY TO SUNDAY... During the outlook period the upper ridge over BC weakens. An upper low moves into the offshore waters with an upper southerly flow ahead of it over southern BC. This pattern will allow mid level moisture to increase over the fire centre giving a trend to more cloud, cooler temperatures and a good possibility of convective activity. We will need to watch for thunderstorm potential each day. As we move through this period there will be a better chance of getting shower activity associated convection. Gusty winds due to increasing gradient and instability.

6 TO 10 DAY FORECAST...MONDAY THRU FRIDAY OF NEXT WEEK... Models are tending cooler and more unsettled weather as an upper trough develops over southern B.C. This pattern would be a big change from what we have seen recently and give cloudier conditions with a trend towards wetter conditions across the fire centre.

VENTING - Good venting expected.

UPPER WINDS:

Puntzi 1000m WNW 15 km/h 2000m NW 25 km/h 3000m NW 30 km/h

CONFIDENCE: Reasonably good. We are going to increase the convective potential from late Thursday then on through the weekend. It looks like a slow transition to more favorable conditions for next week.

CARIBOO FIRE CENTRE INDICES

Valid as of 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Wx Zone	Station	Status	Temp.	RH	Wind Dir.	Wind Sp.	Precip.	Grass Cure	FFMC	DMC	DC	ISI	BUI	FWI	Dgr. Ct.
5	SCAR CREEK	for	35.0	15	240	5	0.0	*	97.6	143	490	15.9	166	50.6	5
13	MOOSE LAKE	for	31.0	20	240	8	0.0	0	95.4	71	352	13.7	95	37.8	5
14	CHILAKO	for	27.0	24	240	10	0.0	*	94.5	94	346	13.3	112	40.0	5
17	ALEXIS CREEK HUB	for	30.0	19	250	7	0.0	*	95.7	95	623	13.5	137	43.5	5
	ANAHIM LAKE HUB	for	29.0	23	250	8	0.0	*	95.4	84	538	13.7	121	42.0	5
	BALDFACE	for	28.0	20	250	8	0.0	*	94.5	59	378	12.1	85	33.0	3
	BENSON	for	27.0	25	250	7	0.0	10	94.5	60	292	11.5	79	30.9	3
	CHURN CREEK	for	28.0	26	160	6	0.0	10	94.8	62	557	11.3	97	33.8	4
	GASPARD	for	28.0	25	280	7	0.0	10	93.5	56	413	10.0	84	29.0	3
	GAVIN	for	28.0	23	290	6	0.0	0	94.0	48	373	10.1	73	27.2	3
	HORSEFLY	for	30.0	22	250	8	0.0	*	94.5	68	452	12.1	99	35.4	4
	KNIFE	for	30.0	20	250	7	0.0	*	95.0	94	474	12.3	126	39.8	5
	LONE BUTTE	for	30.0	21	250	7	0.0	0	94.6	72	465	11.7	104	35.6	4
	MEADOW LAKE	for	28.0	25	100	6	0.0	10	94.3	66	549	10.6	101	32.9	4
	MIDDLE LAKE	for	31.0	18	290	10	0.0	*	97.0	222	510	18.8	221	58.6	5
	NAZKO	for	29.0	22	250	7	0.0	10	94.8	79	436	11.9	108	36.7	4
	NEMIAH	for	27.0	25	300	8	0.0	*	94.9	87	587	12.7	127	40.8	5
	PLACE LAKE	for	30.0	20	230	7	0.0	10	94.9	61	551	12.2	95	35.2	4
	PUNTZI MOUNTAIN (EC)	for	30.0	18	250	8	0.0	*	95.5	108	715	13.8	157	45.8	5
	QUESNEL (EC)	for	31.0	22	250	12	0.0	*	94.7	107	447	15.2	134	46.4	5
	RISKE CREEK	for	30.0	20	250	8	0.0	10	95.3	112	659	13.5	157	45.2	5
	TALCHAKO	for	35.0	15	50	8	0.0	*	96.9	131	485	16.8	156	51.8	5
	TATLA LAKE HUB	for	30.0	18	290	8	0.0	*	95.5	74	569	13.8	112	40.9	4
	TAUTRI	for	29.0	22	250	8	0.0	10	95.4	70	417	13.7	98	38.6	4
	TIMOTHY	for	29.0	24	250	9	0.0	*	93.9	45	299	11.7	65	28.5	3
	WILLIAMS LAKE (EC)	for	30.0	20	250	7	0.0	*	94.9	53	427	12.1	81	32.4	3
	YOUNG LAKE	for	30.0	24	250	9	0.0	*	94.1	52	430	12.0	80	32.0	3
18	DECEPTION	for	27.0	27	300	7	0.0	*	94.4	56	276	11.3	74	29.5	4
	WINDY MOUNTAIN	for	27.0	27	300	6	0.0	*	93.4	51	256	9.4	68	25.0	4
19	BIG VALLEY	for	26.0	25	230	12	0.0	*	92.9	38	264	11.9	56	26.6	4
	LIKELY RS	for	29.0	26	210	6	0.0	*	94.3	49	311	10.6	70	27.6	4
	MATHEW	for	27.0	24	290	7	0.0	*	94.0	54	262	10.8	71	27.9	4
	PRAIRIE CREEK	for	28.0	24	290	6	0.0	*	93.9	45	294	10.0	65	25.5	4

The FFMC (Fine Fuel Moisture Code) is a code that measures the dryness of fine fuels (grasses, needles, etc.). A number of 85 or higher indicates a good chance of a fire start from an ignition source. Once 90 or higher is reached, all the fine fuels are available to burn.

The DMC (Duff Moisture Code) measures about 10 cm into the ground and is an indication of whether a fire that starts will continue to burn in the duff. A

number of 40 or greater would indicate that a fire will continue to burn.

The DC is the Drought Code, measuring deeper in the ground. A number of 300 or greater indicates that the fire will burn deep into the ground, providing challenges to mop it up.

The Danger Class is the typical Fire Danger Rating that is seen on fire signage, where 1 and 2 represent "low", 3 is "moderate," 4 is "high" and 5 is "extreme."

BE PREPARED. BE INFORMED.



Don't wait; prepare today. Disasters can strike any time, anywhere, so planning is key.

The best way that you can prepare in the Cariboo-Chilcotin is to sign up for the Cariboo Regional District's Emergency Notification System.

Get alerts about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for the Emergency Alert Program. This system enables the CRD to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighbourhoods.

You will receive time-sensitive messages however you specify: home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more. You pick where; you pick how.

Sign up online through the link on the CRD's home page at cariboord.bc.ca or click [HERE](#) for the direct link.

You can also learn more about how to prepare for emergencies online at PreparedBC. Depending on the incident, you and your family could be on your own for several days while first responders manage the aftermath. Prepare for that possibility by visiting PreparedBC and taking a few simple steps.

Sign up to receive local alerts through the Cariboo Chilcotin Emergency Notification System. Also bookmark these trusted provincial channels:

- * [@PreparedBC](#) for preparedness information
- * [@EmergencyInfoBC](#) and [Emergency Info BC](#) for alerts
- * [@BCGovFireInfo](#) for wildfire updates
- * [BC Forest Fire Information](#) (Facebook)
- * [@DriveBC](#) and [DriveBC.ca](#) for road conditions

CHECK OUT BCWILDFIRE.CA

For information on wildfires, prohibitions, fire danger ratings, FireSmart and more, visit our website: bcwildfire.ca

CONTACT INFORMATION

Report a wildfire	1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on a cell
Wildfire Information Line	1 888 3-FOREST
Burn Registration Line	1 888 797-1717
Cariboo Fire Information Officer	1 250 989-2665