



CARIBOO FIRE CENTRE

2015.05.22

Wildfire Newsletter



Pelican Lake Wildfire, northwest of Quesnel — May 13, 2015

Another wildfire season is upon us and crews are already busy with fires around the province. Fires of note include the estimated 27,000-hectare Little Bobtail Lake wildfire southwest of Prince George and the recently contained 164-hectare Pelican Lake wildfire northwest of Quesnel.

In the Cariboo Fire Centre, there have been 47 fires since April 1, 2015, which is slightly above the 10-year average of 39 wildfires for this time of year. These fires have burned approximately 680 hectares and 70% of the fires have been human-caused. Interestingly, we have responded to 14 lightning-caused fires so far; this is far above the average of four lightning-caused fires at this time of year.

Throughout the fire centre, the fire danger rating has already reached “High” in some areas. However, the majority of the fire centre has “Moderate” fire danger ratings.

The current long-term outlook for the summer indicates a potential for higher-than-normal temperatures. However, warmer conditions alone are not necessarily an indicator of an intense fire season. The nature of the fire season will ultimately depend on the amount of rain that arrives over the next five to six weeks.

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Fires since April 1, 2015

Zone	Fires	Hectares
Quesnel	9	170
Cariboo Chilcotin East	5	396
100 Mile House	14	13
Cariboo Chilcotin West	24	104

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OPEN FIRE PROHIBITIONS

Effective at noon on April 27, 2015, Category 3 open burning was prohibited by the Wild-fire Management Branch throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect the public.

Specifically, this order prohibits fires that burn:

- material concurrently in three or more piles, each not exceeding two metres in height and three metres in width; or
- material in one or more piles, each exceeding two metres in height or three metres in width; or
- one or more windrows; or
- stubble or grass over an area exceeding 0.2 hectares (more than 2,000 square metres).

The prohibition will remain in place until Sept. 30, 2015 or until the public is otherwise notified.

This prohibition does not apply to campfires, cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes, or open fires that are two metres by three metres or smaller. People must ensure that such fires are not lit or kept burning during windy conditions and that adequate tools, water and people are on hand to contain the fire. They must also make sure that

the fire is fully extinguished and the ashes are cold to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time.

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.

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

Should a fire escape, the person undertaking the burn must attempt fire control if possible.

They also must report the escape to 1 800 663-5555 or *5555

CATEGORY 3 BAN

CATEGORY 3 FIRES ARE BANNED IN THE ENTIRE CARIBOO FIRE CENTRE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

1-888-336-7378

WWW.BCWILDFIRE.CA

TO REPORT A PROHIBITED FIRE:

1-800-663-5555

EFFECTIVE:

Noon, April 27, 2015



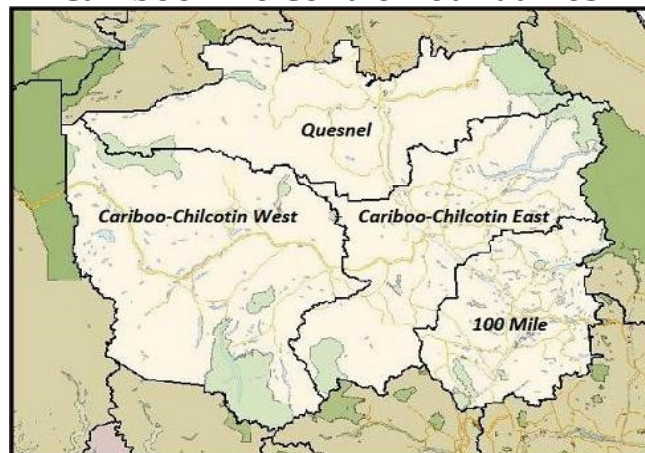
MEET OUR ZONE STAFF

The Cariboo Fire Centre covers an area of about 10.3 million hectares, stretching as far south as Loon Lake to just north of Quesnel at the Cottonwood River. From east to west, the boundaries stretch from the western edge of Wells Gray Provincial Park to the western boundary of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park.

There are four zones in the Cariboo Fire Centre: Quesnel, Cariboo Chilcotin East, 100 Mile House, and Cariboo Chilcotin West. Each zone is responsible for its area's fuel management, fire prevention and community liaison needs.

We'd like to introduce you to our zone staff. The staff in bold letters are the managers of each zone.

Cariboo Fire Centre Boundaries



100 Mile House



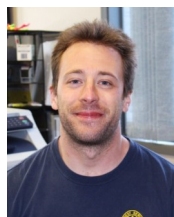
Chris Betuzzi



Shelly Harnden



Reg Trapp



Rance Hall

Cariboo Chilcotin East



Matt Sherlock



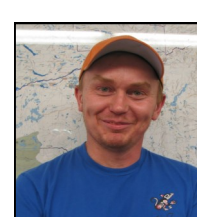
Matt Lees



Neil DeHoog

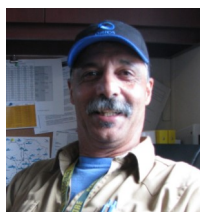


Richard Bloomfield



Peter Holub

Quesnel



Steve Richburg



John Salewski



Lisa Steels

Cariboo Chilcotin West

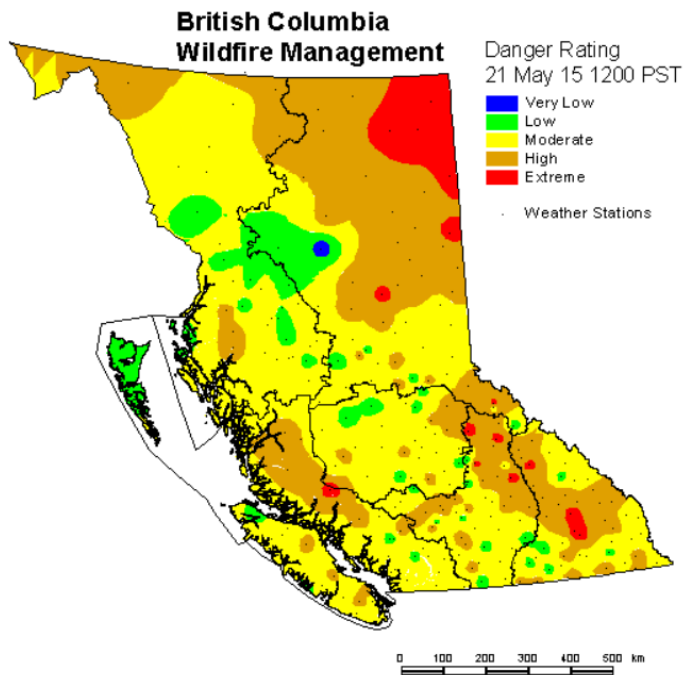


Bob Mitchell

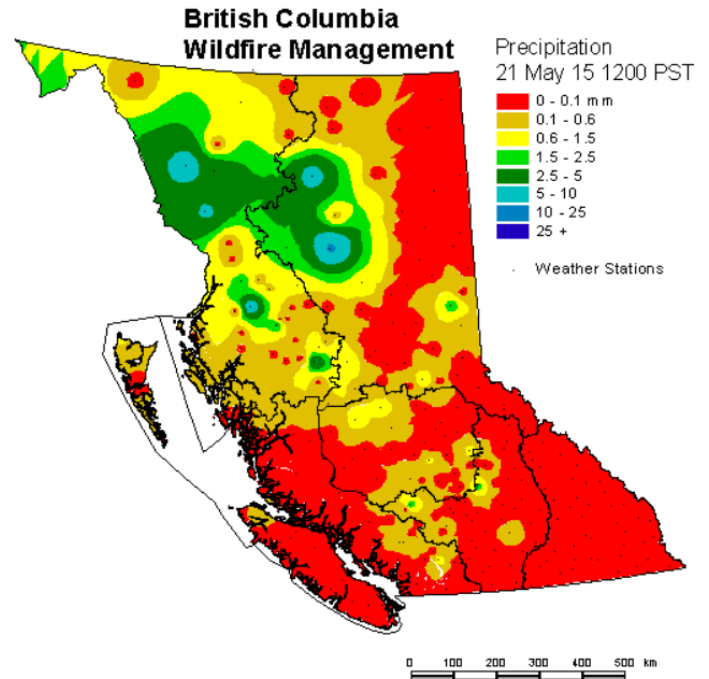


Jeff Belcher

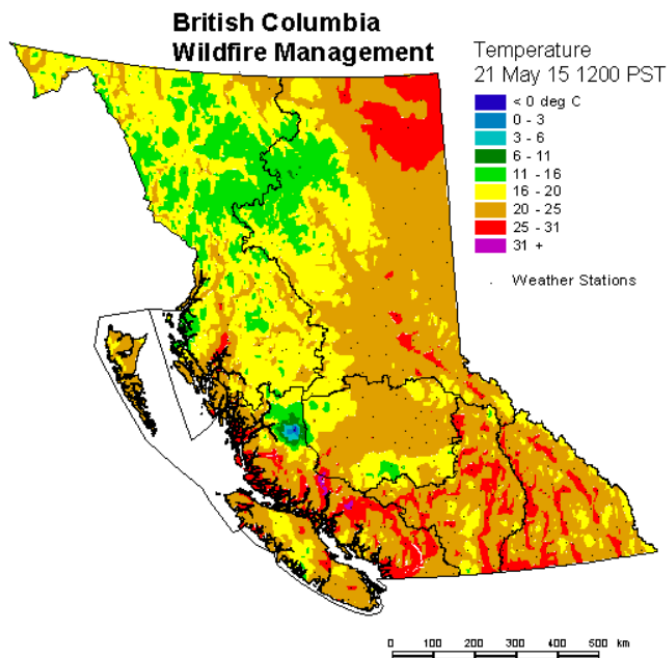
Fire Danger Rating



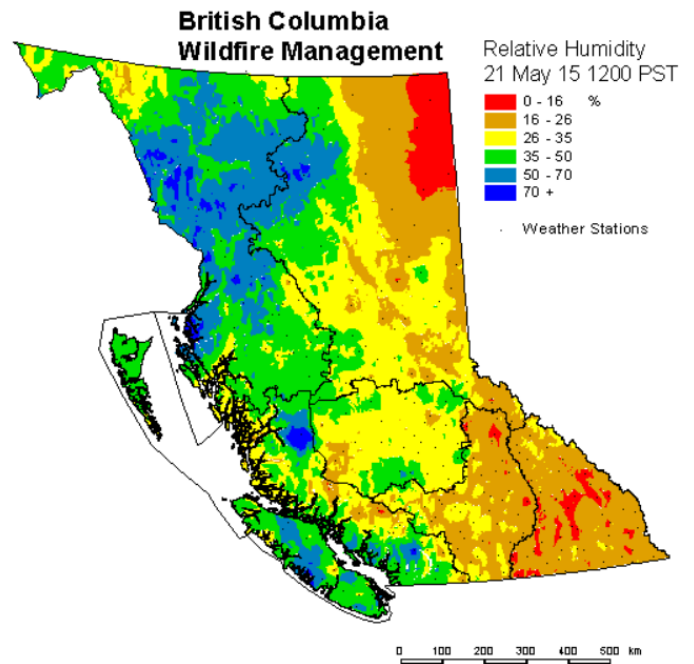
Precipitation



Temperature



Relative Humidity



These maps are current for May 21, 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 8 am Friday May 22, 2015

Cariboo Fire Centre Statistics

Since April 1, 2015:

Fires to date: 51
Hectares burned: 683
Person-caused fires: 34
Lightning-caused fires: 17

2014 at this time:

Fires to date: 32
Hectares burned: 182
Person-caused fires: 32
Lightning-caused fires: 0

2013 at this time:

Fires to date: 43
Hectares burned: 1,062
Person-caused fires: 43
Lightning-caused fires: 0

SYNOPSIS: An upper trough will persist along the BC Coast today. A weak upper ridge lies over the eastern Interior. A mix of sun and cloud is expected across the fire centre during the day with somewhat more extensive cloud coverage in the west. Isolated to scattered thundershowers are anticipated this afternoon. Little change in the pattern is expected on Saturday. The highest number of lightning strikes should be in the west. Rainfall amounts will be light for the most part but local heavy downpours are possible mainly in the west. Highs in the 20 to 25 range with coolest temperatures in the west. Light winds will prevail except locally gusty near convective cells.

WEST OF FRASER

TODAY: Cloudy with sunny periods. Scattered afternoon thundershowers. Winds variable 5 to 10 km/h this morning becoming west 15 km/h this afternoon. Local gusts to 50 km/h near cells. Minimum relative humidity 28 to 38%. Highs 19 to 23 C.

TONIGHT: Variable cloud with isolated evening thundershowers. Winds variable 5 to 10 km/h. Maximum relative humidity 80 to 95%. Lows 3 to 7 C.

SATURDAY: Cloudy with sunny periods. Scattered afternoon thundershowers. Winds southwest to west 10 to 15 km/h. Local gusts to 50 km/h near cells. Minimum relative humidity 30 to 42%. Highs 19 to 23 C. Chance of lightning today 70%. Tomorrow 70%. Intense 30%.

EAST OF FRASER

TODAY: A mix of sun and cloud. Isolated afternoon thundershowers. Winds variable 5 to 10 km/h this morning becoming southwest to northwest 15 km/h this afternoon. Local gusts to 50 km/h near cells. Min rh 25 to 38%. Highs 21 to 25 C.

TONIGHT: Cloudy periods. Risk of evening thundershowers. Winds variable 5 to 10 km/h. Max rh 85 to 100%. Lows 5 to 9 C.

SATURDAY: Morning sun. Afternoon cloudy periods with isolated thundershowers developing. Winds southwest to northwest 10 to 15 km/h. Local gusts to 50 km/h near cells. Minimum relative humidity 28 to 40%. Highs 21 to 25 C. Chance of lightning today 50%. Tomorrow 50%. Intense 20%.

3 to 5-DAY OUTLOOK: SUNDAY TO TUESDAY An upper low moves to lie over the Southern Coastal Mountains on Sunday. Variable cloud and scattered showers or thundershowers are expected throughout the fire centre. Temperatures will be a few degrees cooler. The low moves to lie over northern Washington on Monday. The greatest chance of showers should be in the southern Chilcotin and 100 mile zones. A weak trough lies over the area on Tuesday. Expect a mix of sun and cloud with isolated afternoon thundershowers developing. Highs in the upper teens to low 20's on Sunday, rising to the 20 to 25 range Monday and Tuesday.

6 TO 10-DAY FORECAST: WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY OF NEXT WEEK A weak upper ridge is forecast to lie over the area through the period. Variable amounts of cloud and convective buildups i.e. thunderstorms developing each day. Temperatures will be somewhat about normal with highs in the low twenties, up to near 25 in the usual warmer locations.

UPPER WINDS:

Puntzi 1000m VRB 5 km/h 2000m VRB 5 km/h 3000m S 12 km/h

CONFIDENCE: Fair to good. The location of thunderstorms today and Saturday somewhat in doubt but will go with the highest number of strikes in the west. Rainfall amounts with the upper low coming through on Sunday through Sunday night hard to predict. I suspect mostly light amounts but local heavy thundershowers are likely in some locations.

FUEL TREATMENT PROJECTS

This spring Wildfire Management Branch personnel completed a number of prescribed burn and fuel treatment projects throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre. Several of these projects were completed in co-ordination with Recreation Sites and Trails BC, BC Parks and local governments. The photos below are from a prescribed burn that reduced the fire hazard around the recreation sites at Chimney Lake and Felker Lake. Other projects included: a hazard-reduction burn north of the Village of Clinton; an ecosystem restoration burn in the Churn Creek Protected Area; and fuel management work at Marsh Road (Quesnel), Hallis Lake (Quesnel), Garner Road (Quesnel), Ranchettes (100 Mile House), Stack Valley (Meldrum Creek), the Alexis Creek refuse site, the UBC Research Forest and Boitanio Park (Williams Lake).



NEW RECRUIT BOOT CAMP

On May 6, 2015 66 firefighter students wrapped up their training at the Wildfire Management Branch's New Recruit Boot Camp in Merritt. These firefighters are now joining fire crews throughout the province.



CARIBOO FIRE CENTRE INDICES

Valid as of 3:00 p.m. Friday, May 22, 2015

Wx Zone	Station	Status	Temp.	RH	Wind Dir.	Wind Sp.	Precip.	Grass Cure	FFMC	DMC	DC	ISI	BUI	FWI	Dgr. Cl.
5	SCAR CREEK	act	24.7	31	174	5	0.0	*	93.7	90	151	9.2	90	28.3	4
13	CARROTT LAKE	act	16.8	51	187	6	2.2	*	73.5	27	80	0.9	29	1.4	2
	KLUSKUS	act	17.0	57	264	0	0.8	*	82.4	51	92	1.5	50	4.5	3
	MOOSE LAKE	act	19.5	36	87	12	1.0	0	87.3	64	99	5.4	64	16.1	3
14	CHILAKO	act	21.4	43	127	6	2.4	*	78.5	52	131	1.3	52	4.1	3
17	ALEXIS CREEK HUB	act	17.6	67	200	5	0.4	*	87.1	63	435	3.6	93	14.5	3
	ANAHIM LAKE HUB	act	19.8	39	166	10	0.0	*	91.1	79	327	8.4	98	27.8	4
	BALDFACE	act	8.7	90	80	4	0.6	*	79.5	45	217	1.4	59	4.6	2
	BENSON	act	18.7	50	269	14	0.0	90	88.8	27	120	7.1	34	14.3	2
	CHURN CREEK	act	18.4	45	6	16	0.4	75	88.0	86	469	7.1	118	27.0	4
	GASPARD	act	13.3	67	320	12	1.0	45	79.7	18	296	2.0	31	4.3	1
	GAVIN	act	18.9	46	329	8	0.0	0	90.0	70	261	6.4	83	21.1	3
	HORSEFLY	act	22.3	40	252	13	0.8	*	88.7	74	261	6.8	86	22.5	3
	KNIFE	act	19.0	50	275	8	0.0	*	89.5	70	274	5.8	85	19.8	3
	LONE BUTTE	act	20.7	36	206	11	0.0	0	90.1	48	326	7.4	70	21.4	3
	MEADOW LAKE	act	19.6	39	13	14	0.2	50	90.8	66	402	9.8	94	30.0	4
	MIDDLE LAKE	act	21.1	40	200	6	0.0	*	91.9	79	209	7.6	81	23.6	3
	NAZKO	act	16.4	69	161	6	7.8	90	50.6	39	209	0.2	53	0.4	2
	NEMIAH	act	18.4	42	6	7	0.0	*	89.7	35	318	5.8	54	15.5	2
	PLACE LAKE	act	19.6	50	333	7	0.6	75	87.2	78	425	4.2	107	17.6	3
	PUNTZI MOUNTAIN (EC)	act	13.0	77	120	6	0.0	*	85.5	89	447	3.0	119	14.3	3
	QUESNEL (EC)	act	19.0	56	160	4	0.0	*	88.7	93	226	4.3	93	16.6	3
	RISKE CREEK	act	20.5	45	285	7	0.0	65	90.4	71	404	6.6	99	23.5	3
	TALCHAKO	act	0.0	*	90	6	0.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	TATLA LAKE HUB	act	19.7	41	80	13	0.0	*	91.0	76	441	9.6	106	31.4	4
	TAUTRI	act	13.9	71	349	10	0.0	75	86.2	75	214	4.2	80	15.0	2
	TIMOTHY	act	20.6	40	355	8	0.0	*	90.9	52	155	7.4	57	19.1	3
	WILLIAMS LAKE (EC)	act	18.0	52	300	11	0.0	*	88.7	85	263	6.3	94	22.1	3
	YOUNG LAKE	act	23.4	29	64	10	1.6	*	87.1	58	393	4.6	85	16.7	3
18	DECEPTION	act	24.1	33	264	9	0.0	*	90.9	44	137	7.5	49	17.9	4
	WINDY MOUNTAIN	act	20.9	38	292	12	0.0	*	87.9	20	92	5.8	26	10.4	3
19	BIG VALLEY	act	18.7	47	102	10	1.6	*	79.5	22	126	1.8	31	3.8	2
	LIKELY RS	act	21.7	41	237	12	0.0	*	91.2	70	157	9.2	70	25.0	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.

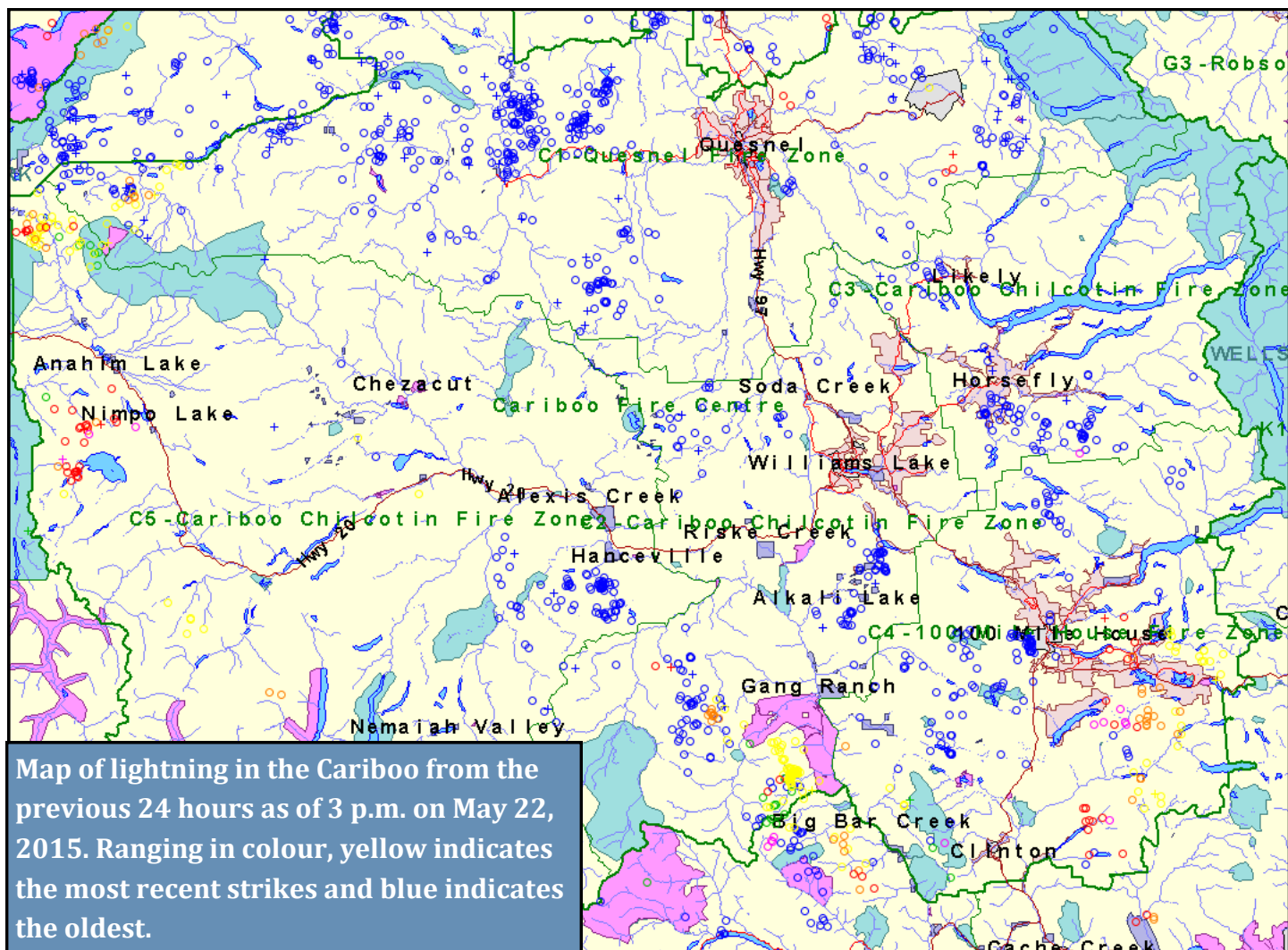
The DMC (Duff Moisture Code) measures about 10 cm into the ground and is an indication of whether a fire that starts will continue to burn in the duff. A

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."

CARIBOO FIRE CENTRE LIGHTNING MAP



WANT MORE WEATHER INFORMATION?

View an interactive map of the weather stations here:

<http://webmaps.gov.bc.ca/imf5/imf.jsp?site=protection>

View a daily list of the danger class rating here:

<http://bcwildfire.ca/hprScripts/DgrCls/index.asp?Region=5>

Find how danger class relates to industry operations here:

[http://bcwildfire.ca/Industry Stakeholders/industry/HighRiskActivities.htm](http://bcwildfire.ca/Industry%20Stakeholders/industry/HighRiskActivities.htm)

For general weather information, visit: <http://bcwildfire.ca/Weather/>

CHECK OUT BCWILDFIRE.CA

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

The screenshot shows the BC Wildfire Management Branch website. The left sidebar contains a 'Program Information' menu with links to Wildfires of Note, Fire Prohibitions, Fire Danger Rating, Current Wildfire Situation, Prescribed Fire, Wildfire Prevention, Fire Weather, Fighting Wildfire, Wildfire History, About Us, Legislation, Regulations and Policies, Strategic Planning, Employment, Stakeholders & Industry Partners, Frequently Asked Questions, Links, Media Room, Contact Us, and RSS. The main content area features a large image of a wildfire with the text 'MODIFIED RESPONSE WILDFIRES' and a description: 'Wildfires are a natural component of British Columbia's landscape. Learn more about how they keep our forests healthy, diverse, and resilient.' Below this is a 'Latest News' section with the headline 'Prescribed burns to restore Cariboo-Chilcotin grassland' dated 9/20/2013 3:44 PM. On the right, there is a vertical column of six tiles: 'Wildfires of Note', 'Prohibitions', 'Fire Danger Rating', 'Interactive Maps', 'Media Room', and 'Prevention'. At the bottom right are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Six callout boxes with red arrows point to specific features: 'Click here for information on wildfires of note' points to the 'Wildfires of Note' tile; 'Click here for info on restrictions, open burning guidelines and the venting index' points to the 'Prohibitions' tile; 'Click here to see the fire danger rating and danger class report for your area' points to the 'Fire Danger Rating' tile; 'Click here to learn about being FireSmart' points to the 'Prevention' tile; 'Click here to follow us on social media' points to the social media icons; and 'Click here to read the most recent information bulletins' points to the 'Latest News' section.

Click here for information on **wildfires of note**

Click here for info on **restrictions, open burning guidelines** and the **venting index**

Click here to see the **fire danger rating** and **danger class report** for your area

Click here to learn about being **FireSmart**

Click here to follow us on **social media**

Click here to read the most recent **information bulletins**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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