



## In this Issue:

Terms

Direct versus Indirect

TEAMS

To Report a Wildfire:  
1-800-663-5555  
Or Call \*5555

Containment Does Not Mean Out!

## Terms

**Direct attack:** A strategy in which firefighters work very close to the fire's edge, either building fireline or attempting to douse the flames directly with water or dirt. Direct attack can generally only be made if the flames are less than 4 feet long.

**Indirect attack:** A strategy in which firefighters build fireline far away from the fire's edge in preparation for its advance. Planned ignitions are set to burn out fuels ahead of the main fire, and fireline can be combined with existing natural barriers to strengthen the overall control line. Indirect attack is used when direct attack is impossible.



Waiting for the Word—Go!

**Control Line:** A barrier that blocks the spread of a fire. It can include:

- \* natural breaks in the fuel source, such as rivers, lakes or roads.
- \* built control line is a strip of ground that has been dug up, burned out or otherwise cleared of fuel ahead of a fire's advance.

The width required to prevent flames or embers from crossing and igniting fuels on the other side depends on a number of variables, including wind and weather, fire intensity and terrain.

**Fireline:** The built portion of a control line, this is a strip of land that has been dug or scraped down to the layers of soil below the surface that have little combustible material and are unlikely to burn. Fireline is built by hand crews to help complete a control line and contain a fire.

**Containment:** The process of completely surrounding a fire with a control line. The fire is still actively burning inside this new boundary but is less likely to spread beyond it. A containment line is a control line that has been reinforced to withstand forecasted fire behaviour.

## Direct versus Indirect

**Direct Fire Fighting**—Direct attack is any treatment applied directly to burning fuel such as wetting, smothering, or chemically quenching the fire or by physically separating the burning from not burned fuel.

**Indirect Fire Fighting**—are those tactics used at a distance from the oncoming fire. Fuel reduction, indirect firelines, contingency firelines, planned ignitions and wetting unburnt fuels may provide more effective results and allows for better planning. Being able to strategically place firelines in lighter fuels using natural barriers allows for safer working conditions in less smoke filled and cooler areas.

In the case of the Dog Mountain fire a combination of both methods were utilized. For example, in the cabin area an indirect method was used when a sprinkler line was placed allowing fuels to be saturated with water. As the fire spotted over that line a direct method was used as crews dealt with any hotspots that traversed the sprinkler line.

A direct approach for the entire fire was not used because of the hazards on site due to the steep terrain; as to ensure their safety from burning and rolling debris they were restricted to specific areas to work on the fire. Evidence of this danger is the continued falling of trees and debris, slope instability and the close call of a large boulder that impacted the corner of one cabin. Responders must always prioritize the safety of its personnel over property.

The placement of a control line requires strong anchor points, or the fire will simply edge around the line. The steep cliffs on the main portion of the peninsula that were unworkable limited the placement of the control line to the narrow isthmus of the peninsula on the Dog Mountain fire. Indirect fire fighting tactics on this fire included reinforcing the control line through controlled ignitions to reduce the fuels available to the fire.

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## To Date in Coastal

### Fires to Date

Person Caused 95

Lighting Caused 32

Total Number of Fires 127

Fire Danger Rating as of July 17



Current Prohibitions (within WMB jurisdictional area)

- Campfire (All Coastal with the exception of Haida Gwaii and the Fog Zone)
- Category 2 Open Fire (All Coastal)
- Category 3 Open Fire (All Coastal)

## WILDFIRE TEAMS

During the fire season one of the resources available to the BC Wildfire Service are the men and women in other parts of the Provincial government who agree to leave their 'day jobs' and help out.

If a government employee chooses, they may sign up for training, and spend part of the fire season getting practical experience working in a fire centre or on a fire. This training becomes essential for fire seasons like the one we are experiencing as we are able to pull from a pool of qualified people with knowledge of the operation and processes involved in fighting fires.

Over a number of seasons Wildfire TEAMS staff can be trained at a higher level or in specific positions within the Incident Command System to provide additional capacity. Currently we have 56 of these well trained folks helping out in Coastal

in positions in finance, information, logistics, plans, safety and as response officers.

Several ministries are represented this year in Wildfire TEAMS with the bulk of the additional response capabilities coming from Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, but the Department of Corrections, Compliance and Enforcement, Ministry of Justice and Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector are also among those providing their support.

The work doesn't go away when these dedicated individuals come to help out their supervisors and coworkers often pick up the extra workload, but that doesn't mean that these people don't go back to the additional pressure of shortened timelines and mounting work. We would like to thank each and every one.

## At Coastal

On the Dog Mountain and Old Sechelt Mine fires it is expected that over this weekend the warm weather will create conditions that will result in more visible burning. Open flame and smoke will be highly visible within the perimeter of these fires.

The Tsulquate River and Dog Mountain fires are now in patrol. Crews on the Old Sechelt Mine fire are continuing to work towards containment and then reopen the Halfmoon-Carlson Forest Service Road. It is currently 90% contained. These three fires were human-caused.

The Boulder Complex, consisting of the Elaho, Boulder Creek and Cougar Creek fires continue to be managed by Incident Management Teams. It is likely that there will be an inversion over the weekend potentially causing smoke to drift down the valleys towards the Coast.

The campfire, Category 2 and Category 3 prohibitions will continue in most areas of the Coastal Fire Centre. The campfire prohibition has been lifted for Haida Gwaii and the area known as the 'Fog Zone'.

## Weather

**SYNOPSIS:** Strong upper ridge pattern evolving with moderate north winds above the mountains bringing dry air to the region. Some smoke in the sky this morning but not as much as anticipated mainly because of the brisk 1500 to 3000 metre winds. Surface winds this morning are very light with variable directions but at least some outflow pattern showing up. The ridge grows stronger today, the upper winds weaken and an inversion forms above the mountains. Sunny very warm conditions today with layers of smoke spreading out at the mountain peak level and decreasing afternoon humidity. Many interior mainland valleys see relative humidity drop this afternoon to the mid or even low teens while elsewhere values reach the 20 to 30 percent level.

**OUTLOOK:** (Sunday to Tuesday).. A new upper low centre deepens near Haida Gwaii by late Sunday and begins to drift south toward southern Coastal zones. Current weather model forecasts show the system then crossing the central interior on Tuesday with considerable convective impulses some extending over the Coast Mountains into Coastal zones on Tuesday afternoon.

**6 TO 10 DAY:** (Wednesday to Saturday).. A series of upper lows affect the Coastal zones next week. The Tuesday system mentioned above holds over the province through Wednesday with extensive showers and thunderstorms and cooler temperatures. Then a ridge builds ahead of the next low bringing fair warmer weather until near the weekend of the 25th, 26th.