

Coastal Fire Centre Status Report

CoFC Information Officer: (250) 951-4229

Fire Activity			
Fires Currently Burning	10 (5 lightning-caused / 5 human-caused)*		
New Fires Last Week	19		
Total Fires to Date	79	73	58
Total Hectares to Date	269	173	171
	This Season (Since April 1st)	Last Year (2018)	10 Year Average (2009-2018)

Overview

The Coastal Fire Centre has been responding to a number of fires throughout the fire centre, and two of these were in publicly visible location. The fire near Horseshoe Bay on the mainland is now under control and in late stage mop up. The fire near Pender Harbour on the Sunshine Coast is also under control. On Wednesday last week there were about 14 new fires from lightning. These were caught quickly and all are being held or under control. Campfire prohibitions have not been implemented due to cool rainy weather which is expected to last until next week.

Zone Activity Level					
	1	2	3	4	5
Fraser	X				
Pemberton	X				
Sunshine Coast	X				
South Island	X				
Mid Island	X				
North Island	X				
Bella Coola	X				

Fire Prohibitions and Restrictions

	Open Burning	Not in Effect
	Campfires	Not in Effect
	Forest-Use	Not in Effect
	Cat 2 - Restriction	No Ban
	Cat 3 - No Restriction	No Ban

For more information on specific actives that are prohibited during a Category 3, Category 2, or Campfire ban, visit: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status

Weather Synopsis

Issued: 1045 PDT Wednesday 3 July 2019.
 SYNOPSIS: (Today-tomorrow) A large and strong upper ridge pattern centred over northern Alaska will dominate BC weather for the next week, so because we are under the cool northerly flow along the east side of the ridge. Basically, Coastal Fire Centre zones are under a semi-permanent trough pattern which will result in cloudy, cool, sometimes wet weather. But for today at least, a weak ridge of high pressure along the coast has helped an overcast marine cloud layer to form all the way from the Coast Mountains crest westward across Vancouver Island and well offshore. With the ridge and a temperature inversion overhead the cloud layer will be slow to clear. Over Vancouver Island the clouds are more broken and a few sunny periods will emerge in the afternoon. A more active upper trough is seen on satellite imagery approaching Tweedsmuir Park and likely a few showers and thunderstorms will be set off in the late afternoon for that region. Tomorrow, the approaching trough deepens into a low pressure centre over the Central Interior in the morning and over southern sections of the Coastal region by late afternoon. This brings periods of rain or frequent showers all along the eastern border with the rain spilling over into all the mainland heads of inlets and interior valleys. Some stations may see 10 to 15 mm of rainfall late Thursday.

24HR Lightning Forecast

FRASER – PEMBERTON - SUNSHINE COAST	CHANCE OF LIGHTNING / DRY LIGHTNING Today: 0/0. Tonight: 0/0. Tomorrow: 20/0.
SOUTH ISLAND - NORTH ISLAND	CHANCE OF LIGHTNING / DRY LIGHTNING Today: 0/0. Tonight: 0/0. Tomorrow: 0/0.
MID-COAST	CHANCE OF LIGHTNING / DRY LIGHTNING Today: 40/20. Tonight: 10/0. Tomorrow: 20/10.
HAIDA GWAIL	CHANCE OF LIGHTNING / DRY LIGHTNING Today: 0/0. Tonight: 0/0. Tomorrow: 0/0.

3-5 Day Weather Outlook

(Friday-Sunday) An upper trough pattern holds over southern BC all weekend and into early next week. Skies will be cloudy, a few showers likely and temperatures at or below seasonal normals.

Zone Fire Danger Rating

Fraser	Low (Mod Haida Gwaii)
Pemberton	Moderate
Sunshine Coast	Moderate to High
South Island	Moderate to High
Mid Island	Moderate
North Island	Low to Moderate
Bella Coola	Low to Moderate

Coastal Fire Centre Zones

Click here for more information about the Coastal Fire Centre (Fire Danger Rating Maps, Danger Class Reports, Fire Weather Maps, Active Wildfires Map) or visit gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status

Zone Activity Level	
Level 1: (Exporting)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low to normal fire activity; no additional resource support is anticipated • Adequate resources to deal with anticipated fire demands • Monitor and anticipate possible support for non-wildfire provincial emergencies • Zone resources may be deployed to other zones, fire centres, and out of province 	
Level 2: (Exporting/Holding)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an increase in fire activity; zone resources are adequate to meet their demands • Monitor and anticipate possible support for non-wildfire provincial emergencies • Limited resources may be deployable to other zones, fire centres, or out of province 	
Level 3: (Holding)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an increase in fire activity; zone may not be able to meet local resource demands • Resources from other zones / fire centres may be requested to assist zone activity • Long term strategic planning becomes critical in determining what resources are needed where • Zone staff on standby based on anticipated needs 	
Level 4: (Holding/Importing)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The zone is experiencing a high level of fire activity • Zone resources will need to be supplemented from other zones / fire centres / type 2 crews • Out of province resource requests for specific or critical resources may be required if provincial resource capacity is not able to handle fire demands 	
Level 5: (Importing)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The zone is experiencing very significant fire activity, and/or extreme fire behaviour; heavy demands on provincial and fire centre resources are occurring and anticipated to continue • Resource capacity is supplemented with staff from Wildfire TEAMS, other Ministries, the forest sector, Fire Departments, and type 2/3 resources 	

Fire Stages of Control	
Out of Control	Describes a wildfire that is not responding (or only responding on a limited basis) to suppression action, such that the perimeter spread is not being contained.
Being Held	Indicates that (with the resources currently committed to the fire) sufficient suppression action has been taken that the fire is not likely to spread beyond existing or predetermined boundaries under the prevailing and forecasted conditions.
Under Control	The fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.

Disclaimer: The information in this status report is intended for general purposes only and should not be relied on for operational decisions as fires are dynamic and situations change quickly. The BC Wildfire Service makes no warranties or guarantees either expressed or implied as to the completeness, accuracy or correctness of the information, nor accept any liability arising from any incorrect, incomplete or misleading information contained therein.

Fire Danger Rating	
Status	Description
Low	Fires may start easily and spread quickly but there will be minimal involvement of deeper fuel layers or larger fuels.
Moderate	Forest fuels are drying and there is an increased risk of surface fires starting. Carry out any forest activities with caution.
High	Forest fuels are very dry and the fire risk is serious. New fires may start easily, burn vigorously, and challenge fire suppression efforts. Open burning and industrial activities may be restricted.
Extreme	Extremely dry forest fuels and the fire risk is very serious. New fires will start easily, spread rapidly, and challenge fire suppression efforts. Open burning, industrial activities and campfires may be restricted.

Wildfire Ranks	
Rank	Description
1	<p>Characteristics: Smouldering ground fire, no open flames, white smoke, slow (i.e. creeping) rate of fire spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools and water delivery systems (i.e. pumps and hose).</p>
2	<p>Characteristics: Surface fire, visible, open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front; slow rate of spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools, water delivery systems, or heavy equipment. Hand constructed control lines and lines that have been cleared of combustible material will likely be successful.</p>
3	<p>Characteristics: Organised flame front – fire progressing in organised manner, occasional candling may be observed along the perimeter and/or within the fire, moderate rate of spread.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Hand constructed control lines alone are likely to be challenged, ground crews conducting direct attack may require air support from fixed-wing air tankers, skimmers or helicopters conducting bucketing or tanking operations. Control lines constructed by heavy equipment will generally be effective.</p>
4	<p>Characteristics: Grey to black smoke, organised surface flame front, moderate to fast rate of spread on the ground, short aerial bursts through the forest canopy, short-range spotting.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Ground operations may not be successful at the head of the fire, indirect tactics may be required to bring the head of the fire under control. Parallel attack may be used along the flanks of the fire to direct the head into favourable ground or fuels. Air operations may be required to support ground personnel.</p>
5	<p>Characteristics: Black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and spot fire growth.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: The limited options available include indirect attack and planned ignitions to remove fuel in the path of this type of fire behaviour. Ground operations are often restricted to fighting the least active sections of the fire or conducting ground ignition operations from secure control lines with readily available escape routes and safety zones.</p>
6	<p>Characteristics: Organised crown fire front, long-range spotting and independent spot fire growth, possible fireballs and whirls, violent fire behaviour probable, a dominant smoke column may develop which influences fire behaviour.</p> <p>Firefighting tactics: Firefighting under these conditions is extremely dangerous. Suppression efforts will be well away from active fire behaviour and may include preparing structure protection measures or conducting indirect large-scale ignition operations in an attempt to steer the fire. Often, the safest and most prudent strategy is to pull resources back to safe areas, ensure that personnel and the general public are safe, and wait for fire behaviour to lessen before re-engaging in fire suppression operations.</p>

