

In this Issue:

Lightning in Coastal

Coastal Statistics

Today At Coastal

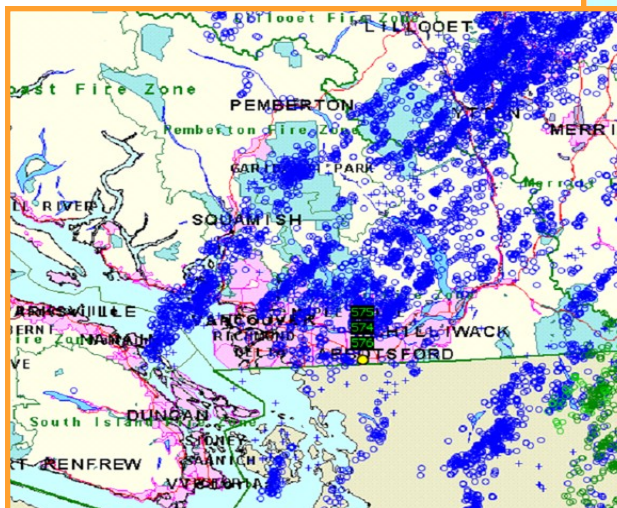
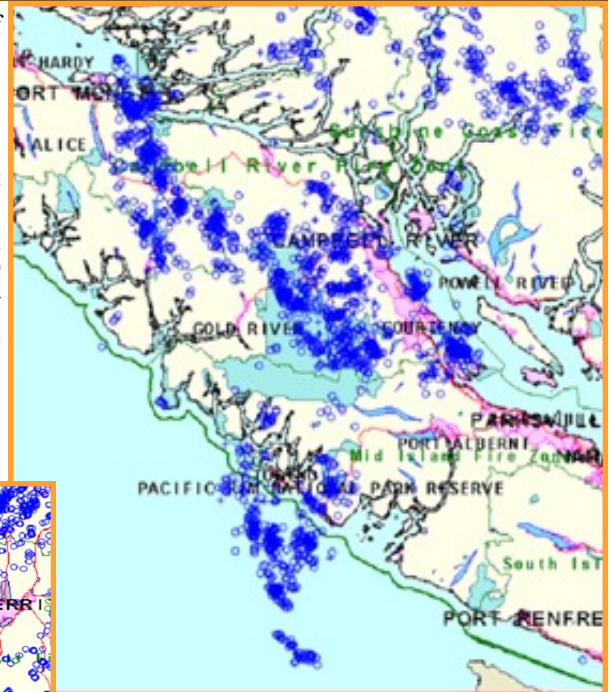
See detailed weather forecast—page 2



Lightning in Coastal

Generally lightning makes up 50 per cent of all forest fires in British Columbia. Fire due to lightning can cost millions of dollars to extinguish and destroy timber, forest products, equipment and structures.

This year has been exceptional in the amount and severity in lightning strikes causing fire in the Coastal Fire Centre. The first large lightning storm moved through the area on July 5—9, 2009 striking upward across the centre of Vancouver Island, across the northern tip and then continued onto the mainland. This series of lightning strikes result in numerous fires including the Vickers Creek fire, near Pitt Lake in the lower mainland, which ultimately burnt 19.5 hectares.



*Nuxhalk Mountain Fire, started August 1, 2009.
The result of lightning strikes in the region.*

The lightning storm of July 25—26, 2009, caused the lightning, it extended from Pemberton to Nanaimo, ending in Nanaimo. The weather pattern curled up from the south—the low was passing south of the border and almost parallel to the border, and the instability was thrown counter clockwise behind it (lows rotate in a counter clockwise manner). Along these lines of instability, thundercells can form if conditions are right, and some thundercells are extreme enough that lightning jumps from clouds to ground trying to balance the charge.

The lightning storms of July 25 and 26th are believed to be responsible for starting the Nuxhalk fire in Bella Cooola which resulted in road closures, an evacuation alert for 61 homes, an evacuation order and burnt 368 hectares. Other fires believed to be started at this time were the Wolf River, Antler Lake, Pemberton Meadows and Uztlius fires. To date the Wolf River fire has burnt 847 hectares, the Antler Lake fire was 182 hectares, the Pemberton Meadows fires, Camel Back East and Copper Mountain were a combined 1496.2 hectares and the Uztlius fire was 700 hectares.

To Date in Coastal

Fires to Date

Person Caused **183**

Lighting Caused **330**

Total Number of Fires Actioned **514**

Hectares burnt **7135**

Number of Incidents Responded To this year **1763**

Fire Danger Rating



Low

Be Safe!

Date	Total Fires	Person Caused	Lightning Caused	Hectares Burnt	Nuisance Response
As of June 30, 2009	128	96	31	47	336
As of July 31, 2009	342	146	214	628	628
As of August 31, 2009	499	180	337	6909	861
As of September 10, 2009	514	183	330	7135	907

Data for fire season 2009. Note the jump in hectares burned from July 31st to August 31, 2009. Also disturbing is the number of nuisance calls dealt with over this period.

Coastal Fire Centre had, what can only be described as, one BUSY fire season!

All statistics are subject to review.

Today at Coastal

First, we would like to let everyone know that as of today the Wildfire News will only be published once a week, on Fridays. We hope you find the information useful and informative. We would like to know if there are any topics you wish us to cover in the future.

There are no 'Fires of Note' burning in the Coastal Fire Centre at this time. We are happy to report that although fires continue to burn in the Coastal Fire Centre, they are in Mop-up or being monitored and are within the management plans trigger points. Our fire crews continue in their outstanding initial attack performance and are knocking them off one by one.

We continue to have warm days but with the cooling temperatures at night and with the cooperation of the public we hope that we are winding down in a long, hard fought season.

Weather Forecast

SYNOPSIS: Strong upper ridge over coastal will maintain clear warm conditions today and tomorrow. A weak outflow breeze helps the pattern and a few areas will see moderately low humidity in the afternoons.

OUTLOOK: The high weakens by Sunday which means the temperatures drop and there will be cloudy periods but it stays dry. Previous forecast showed the chance of rainfall by Monday or Tuesday but a new development sees a low off the California coast moving north early next week which pumps up a small upper ridge and this feature maintains sun and warmth over Coastal zones instead.

LONG TERM TREND: Although it may be a fine balance, next week now expected to continue more sunny than cloudy and warmer than normal.