

# Coastal Fire Centre: Status Report

Prepared August 4, 2021

Zone Fire Danger Rating and Activity Level		
Zone	Fire Danger Rating	Activity Level
Fraser	Extreme	4
Pemberton	Extreme	3
Sunshine Coast	Extreme	2
South Island	Extreme	3
Mid Island	Extreme	2
North Island	High	2
Central Coast (Bella Coola)	Moderate	1
Haida Gwaii	Low/Moderate	1

Overview
<p>There are currently 21 fires burning in the Coastal Fire Centre. Of these, 13 are burning in the Fraser Zone suspected to be lightning caused.</p> <p>Showers are expected over the weekend, but the eastern side of Vancouver Island and areas of the Fraser Zone sit in rain shadows and may not receive adequate precipitation to moderate the Fire Danger Rating.</p> <p>Initial attack response continues to be prioritized with crews being transported by helicopter and support following by ground. Quick reporting means quick response. Please continue to watch for and report any fires you may see to 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on cell phones.</p>

Fire Activity			
<b>Fires Currently Burning</b>	21 (8 undetermined / 9 lightning) *Subtotals may not add up to the total since fires not classified as "lightning-caused" or "human-caused" are still under investigation.		
<b>New Fires Last Week</b>	25 (July 29 – Aug 4)		
	<b>This Fire Season (since April 1)</b>	<b>Last Year (2020)</b>	<b>10-Year Avg. (2010 – 2020)</b>
<b>Total Fires to Date</b>	169	69	101
<b>Total Hectares to Date</b>	3461	260	3542

Active Fires
<p><b>North End Long Island (V12262)</b> – this fire remains at 50 hectares in size. This fire has an evacuation alert that affects 8 cabins in the area. This is one of the fires that resulted from the band of lightning that struck on July 31, 2021.</p> <p><b>North Cloudburst Mountain (V32358)</b> – this fire is approximately 20km northwest of Squamish and is 5 hectares in size.</p> <p><b>North Fork of Scuzzy Creek (V12269)</b> – This fire is 150 hectares in size and is burning in steep, inaccessible terrain.</p>

Fire Prohibitions and Restrictions		
 Cat 2 – Prohibition Cat 3 – Prohibition	 Prohibition Everywhere except Haida Gwaii	 Forest Restriction Not in Effect
For more information on specific activities that are prohibited during a Category 2, Category 3 or campfire prohibition, visit <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status</a>		

### Coastal Fire Centre: Fire Zones







Click [here](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status) for more information about the Coastal Fire Centre (Fire Danger Rating Maps, Danger Class Reports, Fire Weather Maps, Active Wildfire Map) or visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

Weather Forecast
<p><b>Thursday:</b> By noon Thursday the rain is halfway down Vancouver Island but has not moved inland over the mainland past about the Machmill station. Thursday afternoon the new detailed forecasts show the system completely washing out. Looks like cloudy periods and cooler temperatures Thursday for the southern and mainland sections but little or no rainfalls. Winds increase tomorrow as the onshore pressure gradient increases.</p> <p><b>OUTLOOK: (Friday-Sunday):</b> Remnants of Thursday's weak front bring cloudy periods Friday morning to all zones and an isolated shower is likely as well. Afternoon temperatures will be much cooler and humidities higher. It will turn windy as well. A more active trough brings periods of rain to all zones for Saturday. It may not rain all that much over the eastern borders of Pemberton and Fraser zones but still will be cloudy and cool and windy on Saturday. This second system fades out by Sunday afternoon. Skies clear in the north with warmer temperatures and only a few showers continue in the south and they dry up by Sunday afternoon as a new ridge builds in.</p> <p><b>6 TO 10 DAY: (next week)</b> By Monday sunshine and warm temperatures have returned. Yesterday, the long range forecast showed a strong high developing with very high temperatures but the new long range now shows a broad flat upper high likely to bring only slightly warmer than normal temperatures next week.</p>

### Coastal Contact Information

**Coastal Fire Centre Information Officer:** 250 951-4229  
**To Report a Wildfire:** 1 800 663-5555 or \*5555 on a cell phone  
**Fire Information Line:** 1 888 336-7378  
**Burn Registration Line:** 1 888 797-1717

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-  **Website:** [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)
-  **FireSmart** [www.FireSmartBC.ca](http://www.FireSmartBC.ca) and [www.FireSmartCanada.ca](http://www.FireSmartCanada.ca)

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Zone Activity Level	
<b>Level 1: (Exporting)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low to normal fire activity; no additional resource support is anticipated</li> <li>Adequate resources to deal with anticipated fire demands</li> <li>Monitor and anticipate possible support for non-wildfire provincial emergencies</li> <li>Zone resources may be deployed to other zones, fire centres, and out of province</li> </ul>	
<b>Level 2: (Exporting/ Holding)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an increase in fire activity; zone resources are adequate to meet their demands</li> <li>Monitor and anticipate possible support for non-wildfire provincial emergencies</li> <li>Limited resources may be deployable to other zones, fire centres, or out of province</li> </ul>	
<b>Level 3: (Holding)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an increase in fire activity; zone may not be able to meet local resource demands</li> <li>Resources from other zones / fire centres may be requested to assist zone activity</li> <li>Long term strategic planning becomes critical in determining what resources are needed where</li> <li>Zone staff on standby based on anticipated needs</li> </ul>	
<b>Level 4: (Holding/ Importing)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The zone is experiencing a high level of fire activity</li> <li>Zone resources will need to be supplemented from other zones / fire centres / type 2 crews</li> <li>Out of province resource requests for specific or critical resources may be required if provincial resource capacity is not able to handle fire demands</li> </ul>	
<b>Level 5: (Importing)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Resource capacity is supplemented with staff from Wildfire TEAMS, other Ministries, the forest sector, Fire Departments, and type 2/3 resources</li> </ul>	
Fire Stages of Control	
<b>Out of Control</b>	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.
<b>Being Held</b>	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.
<b>Under Control</b>	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
<b>Low</b>	Fires may start easily and spread quickly but there will be minimal involvement of deeper fuel layers or larger fuels.
<b>Moderate</b>	Forest fuels are drying and there is an increased risk of surface fires starting. Carry out any forest activities with caution.
<b>High</b>	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.
<b>Extreme</b>	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
<b>1</b>	<b>Characteristics:</b> Smouldering ground fire, no open flame, white smoke, slow (i.e. creeping) rate of fire spread. <b>Firefighting tactics:</b> Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools and water delivery systems (i.e. pumps and hose).
<b>2</b>	<b>Characteristics:</b> Surface fire, visible, open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front, slow rate of spread. <b>Firefighting tactics:</b> 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.
<b>3</b>	<b>Characteristics:</b> 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. <b>Firefighting tactics:</b> 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.
<b>4</b>	<b>Characteristics:</b> 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. <b>Firefighting tactics:</b> 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.
<b>5</b>	<b>Characteristics:</b> Black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and spot fire growth. <b>Firefighting tactics:</b> 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.
<b>6</b>	<b>Characteristics:</b> 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. <b>Firefighting tactics:</b> 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.



RANK 1      RANK 2      RANK 3      RANK 4      RANK 5      RANK 6