

# Coastal Fire Centre: Status Report

Prepared September 15, 2021

## Zone Fire Danger Rating and Activity Level

Zone	Fire Danger Rating	Activity Level
Fraser	Low to Moderate	1
Pemberton	Low to Moderate	1
Sunshine Coast	Moderate to High	1
South Island	Moderate to High	1
Mid Island	Moderate	1
North Island	Moderate to high	1
Central Coast (Bella Coola)	Low	1
Haida Gwaii	Low	1

## Overview

There are currently 14 fires burning in the Coastal Fire Centre. Of these, 7 are within the Fraser Zone (most lightning-caused). Of the 14 fires, 8 are being held and 6 are under control.

On September 16, the campfire prohibition and Category 2/3 open burning prohibitions will be lifted in all areas of the Coastal Fire Centre, including the South Island Resource District.

Please continue to watch for and report any fires that you may see to 1 800 663-5555 or \*5555 on cell phones.

## Fire Activity

<b>Fires Currently Burning</b>	14 (6 human or undetermined / 8 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>	5 (Sept 09 to Sept 15, 2021)		
	<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>	208	122	172
<b>Total Hectares to Date</b>	7,098	1,198	21,232

## Active Fires




**North End Long Island (V12262)** – This lightning caused fire led to an Evacuation Order, which was rescinded on Aug 17. The fire is 256 ha and is **Under Control**.

**Copper Canyon (V62452)** - This suspected human caused wildfire 13 Kms NW of Duncan is 32ha and is **Under Control**. The Cowichan Valley Regional District lifted an evacuation order and State of Emergency on Aug. 16, 2021.


**Mt. Hayes (V62669)** – This interface wildfire discovered on Aug. 19 about 4.5km northwest of Ladysmith is 61.5 ha and is **Under Control**. The evacuation alert for 20 properties has been cancelled and the evacuation orders for the Fortis facility and Bush Creek Hatchery have been lifted.

**Mowhokam Creek (V11669)** – This fire (natural cause) is located 2 km East of HWY 1, 80 Km North of Hope and is **Being Held**. Once part of the Lytton Complex, it is now being monitored by the Coastal Fire Centre (Fraser Zone).

## Fire Prohibitions and Restrictions

 <b>Open Burning</b> Not in Effect *As of Sept. 16	 <b>Campfires</b> Not in Effect *As of Sept. 16	 <b>Forest Restriction</b> 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](#) 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

**OUTLOOK: (Friday-Sunday):** Variable cloud and seasonal temperatures continue Thursday with cooler and wetter trends for the remainder of this period, as an upper low in the eastern Pacific pushes another frontal wave onto the coast. Temperatures trend cooler again and below seasonal, with freezing levels and the possibility of mixed precipitation or snow at higher elevations. Indications are winds with storm totals in excess of 15-20mm, with some areas potentially seeing in excess of 40-50mm.

**(Next week):** Next week will bring a series of upper lows/systems onto the coast and through the province, continuing a trend of fall-like conditions. Seasonal to cooler temperatures and occasional systems should help maintain a wetter pattern, with no real issues seen from a fire weather perspective.

## Coastal Contact Information

**Coastal Fire Centre Information Officer:** 250 951-4209  
**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)

# Coastal Fire Centre: Status Report

Prepared September 1, 2021

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