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# FIRE INFORMATION

## Fire Information Evening Update – August 25, 2023 @ 9:00 pm (page 1 of 1)

### Wood Buffalo Complex (previously Parks Canada Fire 7, Alberta Wildfire MNZ003, and NWT SS069):

The low laying smoke kept the relative humidity higher again today by shading the sun from the wildfire. This helped keep the temperature from rising and drying out the burnable fuels like branches, needles, and other vegetation. Firefighters did observe increased fire behaviour in the afternoon due to increased winds and when some of the smoke lifted, which caused the wildfire to spot over some of the containment lines. Firefighters and helicopters with buckets made quick work of the areas where the fire escaped.

Firefighting crews, helicopters and heavy equipment made good progress on the fireline today working on new containment lines and strengthening existing ones. These containment lines, often called dozer or cat guards, are established to create a break by removing available burnable fuel. This helps prevent the wildfire from approaching communities and important infrastructure. Firefighters also continued to search for and extinguish hotspots in key areas to prevent the fire from spreading.

Structure protection will continue to be maintained by firefighters when required. Some of the structure protection, like sprinklers, help to create a wet area to prevent the wildfire from burning near residents and other buildings. Due to the increase in fire activity and the fire crossing some of the containment lines, crews have turned on some of the structure protection as a precautionary measure.

Tonight, firefighters will continue to monitor and action when required along the highway and in key areas. A night operation helicopter is also available to assist with operations. Some of the heavy equipment will also continue building containment lines during the evening and into the night.

Tomorrow, firefighters anticipate increased fire behaviour as the relative humidity decreases to forecasted 33% and temperatures increase to 26C. Firefighters also expect winds south-southwest 15 km/h gusting up to 35 km/h.

At the time of the update, there has been no significant wildfire growth towards any communities.

**It is still UNSAFE FOR RESIDENTS TO RETURN. A state of local emergency remains in effect for Fort Smith and Fort Fitzgerald. We understand you want to go home but now is not the time, please be patient so that our crews and incident management teams can focus on this wildfire, rather than worrying about people who have re-entered the community unauthorized.**

Road closures: **Road closures are in place for YOUR protection. Entering into an area before it is safe puts YOU at risk and IMPEDES OUR ABILITY to respond to the fire. We cannot conduct firefighting operations while people are nearby, especially if we don't know where you are.**

Highway 5 is **CLOSED**, with staff monitoring the entrances from Hay River to Fort Smith due to active fire reaching the highway, safety concerns and heavy smoke. Please do not attempt to enter this area. If you try to re-enter unauthorized, you will be turned around. Pine Lake Road, including Pine Lake Recreation Area, **remains CLOSED** due to fire behaviour and ongoing fire operations in the area. For up-to-date highway information click here [Highway Conditions \(gov.nt.ca\)](https://gov.nt.ca/HighwayConditions) or insert <https://dot.gov.nt.ca/Highways>

Significant smoke and poor visibility created challenging fire operations today. For more information on smoke intensity and to see where it's coming from, go to [firesmoke.ca](https://firesmoke.ca).

Report any wildfires or suspicious smoke in Alberta to 310-FIRE, in Northwest Territories to 1-877-NWTFIRE, and in Wood Buffalo National Park to 867-621-0136.

#### For further information, contact:

Caroline Charbonneau

Wildfire Information Officer

Wood Buffalo Wildfire Complex

[Caroline.Charbonneau@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Caroline.Charbonneau@gov.ab.ca)

780-740-1341