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FIRE INFORMATION

Fire Information Update – August 22, 2023 @ 9:00 pm (page 1 of 1)

Fire Behaviour Update

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

Today the fire experienced significant growth, with most occurring towards Fort Fitzgerald. Despite intense helicopter bucketing throughout the day, the wildfire breached the first dozer guard. Structure protection in that area was turned on earlier in the day. There is an additional dozer guard that was constructed that is much closer to Fort Fitzgerald and as of tonight it has not breached the closer one. This means the wildfire has not reached Fort Fitzgerald at this time.

We will provide updated distances tomorrow morning.

Today, two tanker groups were requested to assist. Unfortunately, due to poor visibility, they were unable to fly safely and were stood down.

The planned ignition operation that occurred today south of the dozer guard was successful. This operation was able to tie the area near the fire guard into the road in a controlled matter. Ignition operations are only conducted under the watchful eye of experienced wildfire managers and only during optimal conditions.

Today stressed that 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://www.gov.nt.ca/Highway-Conditions) 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.

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:

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