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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):

Today, we experienced some active fire behaviour, but the smoke helped to raise the relative humidity. This assisted in keeping fire behaviour lower than what was forecasted.

Weather is the most variable aspect of wildland firefighting and can dramatically change how and where a wildfire can burn. Alongside all the good work that has been done, something that also worked in our favour: because it's so late in the wildfire season, the peak burn window is narrower than during the heat of the summer.

Because we did not experience extreme wildfire behaviour for most of the day, crews were able to put some good work into the north containment line, along with helicopters bucketing in that area. Structure protection was maintained by crews and refuelled where required. Our heavy equipment finished a small area they were working on before that was along Connie's Road and Thebacha Road.

Tonight, we have a crew, a helicopter and some heavy equipment that will work this evening in various locations. We anticipate stronger winds tonight, so this nighttime operation will continue to strengthen the containment line and extinguish hotspots.

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/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:

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