



## Okanagan Indian Band

12420 Westside Road  
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250-542-4328

### EOC Update

August 26, 2021

#### White Rock Lake fire update @ 12:00 PM

Way' Members,

The White Rock lake wildfire is currently estimated at **82,000 Hectares**. Crews continue to extinguish deep burning fuels that are persistent throughout the east flank of the fire as a result of severe drought conditions.

Crews and equipment are continuing to patrol and mop-up throughout the Six Mile Creek valley bottom. An infrared scan will be completed this evening which will help crews identify hot spots throughout this flank of the fire. The Drought in this area of the fire is resulting in incredibly deep burning forest fuels making it difficult to bring this area to full extinguishment.

BC Hydro crews are also making good progress along Westside Road to remove danger trees and restore power lines where required. During the wind event on August 15, there was a substantial amount of damage to power lines. Restoring damages where feasible is crucial to ensure safety for residents before they return home.

BC Wildfire has also stated that they will be reviewing changes to orders later this week. A major consideration to order changes is proximity of the fire as well as road access. The small planned burn which was completed earlier this week along Westside road adjacent to Irish creek was to mitigate risk to community but also secure road access. One of the deciding factors is mop up activities in and along the perimeter of the fire. Currently crews are working towards the 100 feet extinguishment standard for opening up access along Westside road. Once that work is complete BC Wildfire will reassess next steps. **At this time we still do not have any exact dates to when residents will be able to return to residences however we will notify residents as soon as possible when changes to order areas occur.**

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*Photo on next page: fire guard above Louis Estates (prior to planned ignition) August 23, 2021.*

