



Okanagan Indian Band

12420 Westside Road
Vernon, BC V1H 2A4
250-542-4328

EOC Update

August 30, 2021

Irish Creek controlled burn @ 8:00 AM

Way' Members,

An update from BCWS regarding the planned ignition event today:

Site conditions and weather are favourable for a large-scale ignition today on the northeast corner of the White Rock Lake wildfire. The burn will be low intensity with low tree mortality. The identified burn area from site assessment today is ~3000 hectares.

Planned ignition operations are critical to achieve containment in areas where the fire perimeter is inoperable and unsafe for ground crews and heavy equipment to work. Planned ignitions are the safest way to remove fuel that can burn well into fall and winter by the wildfire. In 2018, fires that occurred in severe drought areas burned underground over winter and started burning in the spring again.

Given the extreme drought over the wildfire area, the large scale ignition in the Irish Creek Rd area is critical to ensure that the fire perimeter is secure as possible with no fuel available for further growth. Without these ignitions, the wildfire will continue to burn out of control into fall in heavy fuels with the potential to impact Hwy 97 and the surrounding interface.

The ignitions will occur in three phases and are further broken down into three sections. First, a heli-torch machine is used to build heat and create a column within the burn area. This draws the main ignition up and into the column well within established control lines. Second, a Plastic Sphere Dispenser will be used to conduct the main ignition in each section to manage fire intensity and utilize terrain to draw fire into the column. Third, ground crews will ignite from control lines using drip torches to bring fire right to the guards in a controlled manner.

A large fuel free guard has been constructed over the last two weeks by Unit Crews and heavy equipment that will act as the containment line for the ignition. Hose lays are completed along the guards that the ignitions will occur from.

Support Resources:

- 2 helicopters with PSD machines
- 1 helicopter with heli-torch
- 40 BCWS Type 1 firefighters to conduct hand ignitions
- Structure protection task forces (Day and Night Shift)
- 6 heavy helicopters for cooling support
- 2 mobile retardant pits
- Additional air support is available, as needed

We will continue to monitor the situation in tandem with BCWS and provide you with updates as we receive them.

Limlemt