



## Okanagan Indian Band

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

### EOC Update

August 30, 2021

#### **Irish Creek controlled burn @ 12:00 PM**

Way' Community Members,

The white rock lake fire is currently estimated at 81,362 hectares. Controlled burns will be ongoing today in the vicinity above Irish creek. Test ignitions, which were conducted yesterday, confirmed that conditions today would be favorable for conducting such an operation. Mitigation of fuel in this area will help protect the northern section of IR#1 from future fire movements. The OKIB EOC and BCWS will continue to monitor the burns closely with BCWS perimeter crews on site 24/7 during the entire duration of the planned ignitions and afterwards.

Crews continue to increase containment along all flanks of the fire. No additional growth has occurred in several days. Infrared drone scans will continue to be carried out on the fire to help personnel target hot spots. The expansive size of the fire continues to require a substantial workforce to ensure mop-up and patrol operations are thorough throughout the entire fire perimeter. 120 Canadian Armed Forces are engaged in mop up and patrol efforts along the west and north flanks of the fire.

Under current conditions, most of the continuing fire objectives will be in mop up and patrol status as the fire event transitions from active fire to recovery status. Once mop-up is complete, the BC Wildfire Service will reassess the safety of the area and recommend changes to evacuation orders and alerts accordingly. BC hydro crews will also continue to restore Hydro service within the 6 mile area with crews on site for the next 3 days. MOTI crews will also be out on site this week assessing danger trees that have the potential to impact road easements.

Members who have mental wellbeing concerns regarding the ongoing planned ignitions can contact the ESS center to discuss further possibilities at 250-241-6945.

The OKIB EOC will continue to monitor the ongoing fire situation and provide the community with updates as we receive them.

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*Photo next page: Controlled burn above the Irish Creek area at 11:30 AM on Aug 30, 2021.*

