

# WILDFIRE UPDATE



## Information Bulletin

### North Slave Complex (ZF011, ZF012, ZF015, ZF085) – August 15, 830pm

#### Status

These fires remain out-of-control.

#### Conditions

Tomorrow will be an extremely challenging day. West winds sustained 20-25km/h gusting 30-35km/h and continued dry conditions will drive severe fire activity – likely causing meaningful progression to the east of the fire. Chance of 1mm of rain, but not enough to make a dent in the fire.

Thursday, a wind shift expected – with winds coming from the north, which should slow progression east, but will likely push fire towards Highway 3. Chance for rain – 3-5mm.

Behchoko/Yellowknife Fire (ZF015) - August 15, 8:30pm

#### Size

Last mapped – 162,936 hectares

Distance from landmarks (approximately closest point)

- **Yellowknife – 16km northwest at nearest point**
- **Boundary Creek – reached area**

#### Current status

- **The fire is estimated to have progressed approximately 4km east since last update.**
- **There is risk to the City of Yellowknife. Our team, alongside the City of Yellowknife, are doing everything possible to slow the spread of this fire, and protect the community.**
- **An Evacuation Order is in place for KM 284 – 320 on Highway 3.**
- **Behchoko is not at threat – and the significant burned area surrounding the community, alongside the strong perimeter built, mean the community is at very low risk.**
- **Significant fire behaviour expected today – with visible smoke and falling ash likely in Yellowknife, N'Dilo, and Dettah.**

#### What we're doing

- Aircraft were not able to complete drops to the east of the fire today due to poor visibility. We will continue to hit it with as many missions as visibility allows.
- A network of fuel breaks, sprinklers, and other protective measures are being put in place by the City of Yellowknife and our team to prepare should the fire approach the community.



- We continue to maintain structure protection along Highway 3 to keep cabins and homes safe as the vegetation burns off from the ignition operation.
- Crews continue mopping up around Behchoko and addressing any hotspots.

Ingraham Trail Fire (ZF011) - August 15, 11:00am

*Size*

Last mapped – 45,814

*Distance from landmarks (closest point, approx.)*

- **Prelude Lake (north end) – 7km north**
- **Prosperous Lake (north end) – 9km northeast**
- **River Lake – 9km north**
- **Ingraham Trail – 16km north**
- **Neck Lake – reached north end along east side**
- **Duncan Dam – reached area**
- **Island Lake – reached north shore**

*Current status*

- **While the Evacuation Alert for north Prelude, north Prosperous Lake, and River Lake was downgraded to allow people to run their sprinklers, it is highly likely it will be upgraded to an order no later than Thursday.**
- Residents of the Ingraham Trail are not at immediate threat. **Numerous cabins near Duncan Lake, Neck Lake, and Island Lake, and north Prosperous, north Prelude Lake, and River Lake may be.**
- **We are recommending all cabin and homeowners on the Ingraham Trail to get FireSmart now, and setup and test sprinklers as a precaution.**
  - **Here's a guide to using sprinklers at your place:** [https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/sites/ecc/files/resources/firesmart\\_nwt\\_sprinkler\\_use\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/sites/ecc/files/resources/firesmart_nwt_sprinkler_use_final.pdf)
  - **Here's how you can get FireSmart at your place:** <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/FireSmart>
- Three structures are known to have been lost to this wildfire. This is extremely unfortunate, but a reality of the extraordinary wildfires we are facing this year.

*What we're doing*

- Aircraft were able to complete drops today to slow the growth of the fire to the south.
- Structure protection is underway – crews are assessing options for protections at the north of Prosperous Lake, north of Prelude Lake, and River Lake. Many individuals heeded the call to take action in these areas – we applaud everyone who has been proactive.



- Ignition operations – carefully planned, intentionally set fire to head off potential growth to the south being planned and prepared for. **These will only go ahead if conditions allow – and winds will not allow them to be done for the next few days.**

Dettah Fire (ZF085) - August 15, 11am

*Size*

Last mapped - 40,925 hectares

*Distance from landmarks (closest point)*

- **Defeat Lake - reached south shore; progressed to central area of west shore**
- **Hearne Lake – progressed along east and west shores from south shore**
- **Watta Lake – 3km, west shore**
- **Jennejohn Lake –7km south**
- **Dettah - 29km southeast**

*Current status*

- **The fire did not progress to the north shore of Defeat Lake today.**
- **The fire has approached south shore of Watta Lake.**
- **Dettah, N'Dilo, Yellowknife, and the Ingraham Trail are not currently at risk due to this fire.**
- **Number one priority is working hand-in-hand with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to prepare protections for Dettah and N'Dilo**
- The fire has not reached Jennejohn Lake. With expected winds, it is not expected to do so in the coming days.
- Cabin owners at the north end of Defeat Lake and all of Jennejohn Lake are strongly reminded to take FireSmart actions now, so long as it is safe, setup sprinklers and test them, and have a plan to leave the area immediately to prepare for the potential of wildfire approaching.
  - **Here's a guide to using sprinklers at your place:** [https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/sites/ecc/files/resources/firesmart\\_nwt\\_sprinkler\\_use\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/sites/ecc/files/resources/firesmart_nwt_sprinkler_use_final.pdf)
  - **Here's how you can get FireSmart at your place:** <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/FireSmart>

*What we're doing*

- **The planned ignition operation has been delayed for the time being. We encourage everyone to prepare to leave on short notice in the following areas:**
  - **Jennejohn Lake**
  - **Mason Lake**
  - **Defeat Lake**



- **Other lakes, rivers, streams, between Jennejohn and south towards the southern shore of Defeat Lake.**
- **Any other cabins or camps south of Jennejohn Lake and west of Harding Lake**
- **Structure protection teams have assessed and sprinklered numerous cabins and other structures to the east of this fire in anticipation of the strong west winds.**
- **Working closely with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation on proactive community protections including:**
  - Community-led deployment of a sprinkler line – with advice provided by the wildfire team.
  - Deploying a high volume water protection system to the community to bolster those protections
- Structure protection team continues to assess and prioritize protection of cabins and homes

## ZF012

### Size

17,316 hectares

### Distance from landmarks (at closest point, approx.)

- Fishback Lake – 13km north
- Duncan Lake – 9km west
- Yellowknife – 43km north

This fire is being monitored.

## Take FireSmart Steps Now

Everyone with homes, cabins, or camps in forested areas should take steps now to make their place a FireSmart place – because it's not possible to protect every structure when wildfire comes. **This is critical for the huge volume of homes, cabins, and camps in forested areas in the North Slave region surrounding N'Dilo, Dettah, Yellowknife, and lakes and rivers in the area.** The best time to do it is before your place is at immediate threat – so get started now (as long as it is safe to do so).

- Clean needles/leaves from your roof and gutters
- Rake all needles/leaves away from your cabin for a minimum of 1.5m
- Cut all evergreen trees within 10m of your cabin and move the debris away
- Prune all limbs on evergreen trees 10-30m from your cabin up to 2m from ground level
- Move all combustible materials (firewood, lumber, deck furniture, ATV's, gas can, etc.) near or underneath your cabin a minimum of 10m from your buildings
- Shut off and remove all propane tanks a minimum of 10m from buildings before you leave
- Close all doors and windows before you leave
- Set up and test a pump and sprinklers on your cabin

**Get the full guide to FireSmartering your place: <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/services/prepare-wildfire-firesmart-nwt/homes-cabins-camps-and-businesses>**



Get a printable checklist for last minute preparations: [https://firesmartcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/FSC\\_Wildfire-Evac-Checklist-Final.pdf](https://firesmartcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/FSC_Wildfire-Evac-Checklist-Final.pdf)

Get a guide to using sprinklers to protect your place: <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/firesmart-nwt-using-sprinklers-protect-your-home-cabin-or-camp>

