

High-visibility prescribed burning planned for Whitehorse South Fuel Break

August 21, 2025



Update Sunday, August 24, 2 pm: With the current forecast, Wildland Fire Management is planning to conduct the prescribed burn today. Burning will take place between 4 pm and 8 pm.

Wildland Fire Management is planning prescribed burn work on the Whitehorse South Fuel Break. The current weather forecast may create favourable conditions during August or September. Burning could start as soon as Tuesday, August 5, depending on conditions.

Crews will be burning wood mulch remaining from work done on the Mary Lake fuel break site. This operation will produce significant gray smoke. While we always aim to avoid smoky conditions in subdivisions and the Alaska Highway, the smoke from this burn will be visible from many parts of Whitehorse.

As with all prescribed burning, the plan protects the public with specific safety measures and weather conditions. Wildfire crews are patrolling the site with enough resources to put the burn out if conditions change.

In a survey conducted for Wildland Fire by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, 76 per cent of Whitehorse residents agreed with the use of prescribed burning to reduce wildfire risk. Wildland Fire appreciates public support for prescribed burning and is communicating with you about the upcoming burn in the following ways:

- This notice
- Paid advertising on the radio and Facebook
- Posted copies of notice in Alaska Highway subdivisions
- Notifications for local governments and community associations

During the prescribed burn, firefighters will be active in the area south of Mary Lake. Trails will be open, but please follow firefighters' instructions. While Wildland Fire Management makes every effort to reduce smoke impacts from prescribed burning, if you have concerns about smoke, talk to your healthcare professional or call 811.

Fire information officer

867-393-7415 or YukonFireInfo@yukon.ca