Wildland Fire responding to Takhini Bridge fire

July 9, 2023 - 10 p.m.

This bulletin is out-of-date. For the latest update on the Takhini Bridge fire visit <u>yukon.ca/en/emergencies-and-safety/wildfires/read-wildfire-bulletins</u>.

The Takhini Bridge fire (XY-019), located in the Ibex Valley, is approximately 270 hectares as of 9 p.m. and remains out of control.

Dozer guard continued to hold during operations today. While the fire saw some growth to the southwest, there has been no forward growth of the fire towards the Alaska Highway and residences.

Today Yukon First Nation Wildfire's 17-person unit crew joined two 3-person initial attack crews and three wildfire officers and the Yukon Fire Marshal SHOT group on the ground. These resources were supported throughout the day by five helicopters, an airtanker group and heavy equipment.

Goals for firefighting crews today were to prevent further growth of the fire towards the Alaska Highway and nearby homes. Existing guard was reinforced, and personnel also worked on building additional dozer guard along the west flank of the fire closest to the road. This work continues with machinery and is being strengthened with hand ignition when conditions are favourable. Carefully burning strips of unburnt vegetation with driptorches increases the defensible area where crews can set up equipment to fight the fire from.

Additional structure protection, including sprinklers, was deployed on more nearby homes.

Weather tomorrow is calling for westerly winds at 15 km/h. This will likely increase fire behaviour, but the work done today will help to prevent growth toward the highway or residences.

An Evacuation Alert remains in place for the Ibex Valley east of the Takhini River Bridge. Read the full text of the alert here: <u>Evacuation Alert - Ibex Valley area east of Takhini Bridge | Government of Yukon</u>

The cause of the fire is still undetermined but an investigator was on scene today. Yukon Protective Services will post a morning update tomorrow before 12 p.m.

[Photo: A map of the approximate fire perimeter this afternoon when the fire size was an estimated 244 hectares. An updated public map will be provided when available.

The wildfire perimeter map is an estimate based on measurements such as GPS, aerial scanning and satellite imagery. This estimated perimeter can change as more accurate measurements become available. Areas within the fire perimeter may not have been affected by wildfire.]



Contact:

Fire Information Officer, Wildland Fire Management

867-393-7415 or YukonFireInfo@yukon.ca

www.yukon.ca/emergencies