Guard continuing to hold on Takhini Bridge fire

This bulletin is out-of-date.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-wildfirebulletins</u>.

July 10, 2023 - 10 pm

This is an evening update on the Takhini Bridge fire (XY-019).

The latest fire size estimate is 782 hectares. The status of the fire remains "out of control."

Work today was focused on securing the northeast side of the fire closest to the Alaska Highway as light northeast winds kept other areas too smoky for safe access. The goal continues to be keeping fire growth away from homes and the Alaska Highway.

Today the fire grew on the south side. This pattern creates two separate heads to the fire, but it is still considered one incident. The second head, extending over the Ibex ridge, is currently burning parallel to or away from the highway. Planning is underway to build a contingency dozer guard along the base of the ridge.

Critical dozer guard along the northeast portion of the fire continues to hold the fire away from homes and the Alaska Highway, which remains the priority for resources.

Hand crews reinforced previously built dozer guard with driptorches, removing unburnt fuel from between the dozer guard and the fire. Aerial ignitions are also being assessed to remove fuel but require favourable winds to take place.

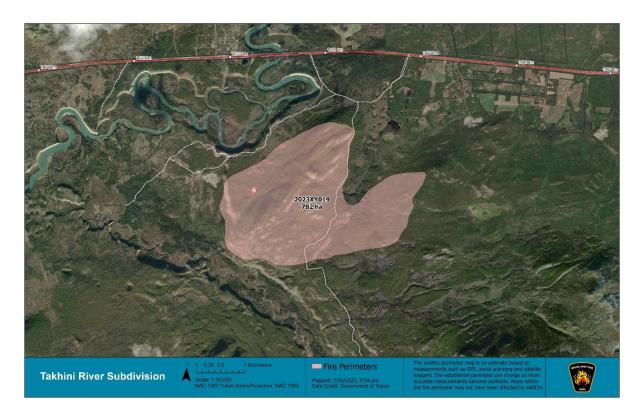
Resources working the fire today include five 3-person initial attack crews, a 17-person Yukon First Nation Wildfire unit crew, four wildfire officers and a SHOT structure protection team. Ground resources were supported by three helicopters and airtanker groups. A heavy AS-332 Super Puma helicopter joined the operation this evening and will remain on the fire tomorrow.

The Alaska Highway remains open for travel, but Wildland Fire is asking members of the public to allow crews to work effectively and avoid stopping on the highway adjacent to the fire. <u>Parts of the Ibex Valley are under evacuation alert.</u> This alert status has not changed.

Visit <u>wildfires.service.yukon.ca</u> to see the locations, size and control status of all Yukon wildfires.

[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:

Haley Ritchie

Fire Information Officer, Wildland Fire Management 867-393-7415 or YukonFireInfo@yukon.ca