

Weekend lightning strikes jump-start Yukon's 2020 fire season

June 15, 2020

Widespread thundershowers hammered most of Yukon this weekend, causing 4 new lightning-caused wildfires. Wildland Fire Management has sent crews to 2 fires:

- A 2,859-hectare fire located 5 kilometres south of Eagle Plains. Firefighters have placed set up sprinklers to protect the Eagle Plains lodge, which is not currently threatened. The Dempster Highway is not currently impacted.
- A 16-hectare fire located 29 kilometres east of Faro that is burning north of Moose Lake. This fire is being held by crews.

Wildland Fire Management is also monitoring 2 fires located in wilderness management zones. These remote areas have the most ecological value in relation to any people or property. As a result, wilderness zone wildfires are usually allowed to burn and fulfil their natural role.

- A wildfire 60 kilometres west of Eagle Plains has grown to 6,631 hectares in size. No values, including historical sites in the area, are at risk.
- A 1,047-hectare wildfire 60 kilometres northeast of Old Crow. This fire's smoke column was visible from Old Crow on Sunday, but neither the community nor any known properties near the fire are at risk.

The wildfire officers who managed this weekend's response appreciated the public's calls to Wildland Fire Management's Wildfire Hotline. By calling 1-888-798-FIRE (3473) to report visible smoke, Yukoners are helping firefighters respond more quickly and reduce the chances that a fire could become dangerous.

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