

East McQuesten fire forces Eagle Gold mine evacuation

Update: August 4 at 2 pm

Deteriorating wildfire conditions at the East McQuesten fire (MA-011, 5,890 hectares) have triggered a second evacuation of the Eagle Gold mine site. All workers are expected to be safe shortly.

Wildland Fire Management has recommended this action to Victoria Gold Corporation because of threats to the Fisher Creek access road and unfavourable winds are expected to burn the fire towards values in the area.

Today this incident is our highest priority due to the size of the mine's workforce and the immediate threat to property. Crews worked hard overnight to prevent this outcome. There are currently 20 firefighters, heavy equipment, two helicopters and an incident management team assigned to this fire.

Update: August 1 at 6:15 p.m.

Wildfire crews have been making headway at the East McQuesten fire (MA-011) near the Eagle Gold mine. Victoria Gold Corporation and Wildland Fire Management have worked together to determine that conditions are safe for mine workers to return and resume operations. The fire's incident commander has reviewed the mine's emergency plan and feels confident that workers could safely leave again if conditions required another evacuation.

[The Dublin Gulch area remains under an evacuation alert.](#) The fire has not damaged any mining properties in the area. However, the incident is reinforcing its response with additional resources to replace the one from Nova Scotia whose shift in the Yukon ended on Sunday.

Update: July 30 at 8:50 p.m.

The Eagle Gold site was evacuated last night on recommendation from the Wildland Fire Management incident commander. A small team of essential

mine workers remain on site while Wildland Fire continues to try and slow the fire's spread towards values, including the mine.

Fire management specialists continue to use hand ignition to remove fuels from a fire guard with air-tanker and rotor-wing support. Structure protection at the Eagle Gold mine continues to be installed as plans to build a mechanical guard with heavy equipment take shape. Forest fuels are also being removed from around the mine site.

Initial bulletin: July 29, 2023 at 8:00 p.m.

Wildland Fire Management is in the process of evacuating the Eagle Gold mine site to protect workers' wellbeing. This difficult decision is the result of unsafe conditions caused by the East McQuesten fire (MA-011). The fire, which is estimated to be over 3,500 hectares in size, has grown beyond the control of the current response, which includes 24 firefighters, an air-tanker group, a helicopter and an incident management team. An evacuation alert remains in place for the Dublin Gulch area, which includes most of South McQuesten Road.

Wildland Fire has been coordinating this response with Victoria Gold Corporation, Eagle Gold's owner. Crews have used a number of different resources to manage this fire including hand ignition, bucketing and air-tanker retardant drops. Preventative structure protection work has now become the incident's primary operational focus while mine workers are moved to a safe location.

We will provide another update on Sunday, July 30.

Follow [Yukon Protective Services on Facebook](#) and visit the Wildfire Hub at wildfires.service.yukon.ca for current Yukon wildfire information.

Contact:

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