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Buhl Fire Information Bulletin – July 17, 2025

Location: Saskatchewan

Fire: Parks Canada – 2025PA04-Buhl, SPSA – 25WY-Buhl

Current as of: July 17, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

Please note that the information provided is current at the time of writing and may be subject to change.

If you see smoke or flames and suspect a wildfire, do not hesitate—call 911 immediately. To report suspicious smoke or wildfires in Prince Albert National Park, call Jasper Dispatch at 780 852 6222 or the Prince Albert National Park at 306 663 4522.

Your quick action can save lives, protect homes, and help emergency responders contain the fire before it spreads.

SK Wildfire Inquiry Line

Available daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Toll-free: [1-855-559-5502](tel:1-855-559-5502)

Situation Reports are posted daily and can be found on the [Sk Publications Website](#).

Visual information is located on the [SPSA Interactive Wildfire Map](#).

For more information regarding wildfire weather and smoke, please visit [FireSmoke Canada](#).

To learn more about highway conditions, including closures, please visit [Sk Highway Hotline](#).

Incident Command Objective

Parks Canada and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency are working collaboratively to allow both organizations to have authority and responsibility for this incident while working together effectively without losing their individual authority.

Objectives for managing this incident are ensuring public safety, protecting critical infrastructure, and preserving valued natural and cultural resources. Collaboration between Parks Canada and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) allows for a coordinated wildfire response and sharing of timely and accurate information. Control and suppression efforts are aimed at limiting the spread of the wildfire perimeter, primarily in the direction of nearby communities and values at risk. Strategies will include maintaining safe and open access along key highways and roads and safeguarding community structures.



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Closures and Fire Ban

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) has issued a fire ban effective at 8 a.m. on July 10, 2025, due to high fire activity and extreme fire risk. The ban encompasses the area north of the provincial forest boundary, up to the Churchill River.

This fire ban includes all of Prince Albert National Park and an area closure for the northern area of Prince Albert National Park, from the northern boundary extending south to include, but not limited to, the Kingsmere Wilderness Area, Crean Lake and area, Heart Lakes and area, Wabeno, Wassegam, Tibiska, Nova and Osten areas.

Buhl Fire Summary

The Buhl Fire, first identified on June 29, 2025, was caused by a lightning strike and has burned approximately 40,958 hectares— 8,113 hectares within park boundaries and 32,845 hectares on provincial Crown land. Current resources assigned to the incident include 95 personnel, 7 helicopters, and 14 pieces of heavy equipment.

Provincial Operation Level: Level 3 - Provincial Response/Provincial EOC activated

Fire Distance from Communities: *Please note these are approximations and not exact distances. This information is only provided as a reference. Continue to monitor and follow instructions provided through the various emergency channels.*

Elk Ridge – 35 km.

McPhee Lake – 38 km.

Montreal Lake – 12 km.

Ramsey Bay – 9 km.

Waskesiu – 31 km.

Weather Forecast

Outlook for Thursday: The surface ridge will begin to break around 08:30 CST. A broad surface ridge and upper trough will bring mostly cloudy skies with a chance of light rain showers and a risk of thunderstorms. Up to 5mm of rain, winds gusting 70km/h and a risk of dry lightning in thundershowers.

Max temp 23°C, min RH 30%. Winds light and variable – SW in the morning then switching N-NE.

Precipitation: trace in any showers.

Outlook for Friday will be partly cloudy south. North and east-central SK: mostly cloudy with showers and risk of thundershowers. Elsewhere: sun/cloud mix.



Operations from July 16

- Parks Canada and SPSA crews, heavy equipment and air tankers collaborated to drop retardant to hold the fire near the MacLennan River and reduce easterly spread to Highway 2.
- Established and reinforced control lines to limit fire spread towards populated areas, including Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Ramsey Bay, the townsite of Waskesiu Lake, Elk Ridge and McPhee Lake.
- Constructed and reinforced control lines as contingency measures in key locations, including near east of Rock Lake Road toward Bear Camp junction, west of Highway 2 near Crean Lake, and east of Highway 2 toward Montreal Lake.
- Suppression and ignition operations along the 916 Road in preparation for potential pre-burn operations using Buckmaster ground ignition equipment.

Today's Focus: *The following is the current operational plan for fire crews across the incident zone. Due to the dynamic nature of wildfire response, crews and equipment may be reassigned at any time. This information reflects intentions, not guarantees.*

Priorities for Operations for July 17

- Suppression and ignition tactics along the 916 Road to establish and hold control lines, aiming to prevent wildfire spread northeast toward Ramsey Bay and south toward Prince Albert National Park.
- Building and strengthening control lines using heavy equipment, including south of the 916 Road to Bell Lake, widening Rock Lake Road from its junction with the 916, east of Rock Lake Road to Bear Camp, northeast of Cheeyas Lake, and both north and south of the 916 Road. Additional control lines are being strengthened west of Highway 2 near Crean Lake and Wassegam Lake in Prince Albert National Park.
- Protecting critical infrastructure, values and community structures. A structural fire specialist continues to assess protection needs for critical and other infrastructure, including within the townsite of Waskesiu.
- Extinguishing hotspots and assessing dozer guard north of the 916 Road toward Leadley Lake and pump and hose deployment. Float truck operations continue east of Elaine Lake for extinguishment along roadways.



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Fire Map: Last Updated – 10:00 hours, July 17, 2025

