

Fort Simpson Wildfire (FS016-26) – July 3, 2026 – 11:00pm

Fire Status:

- Out Of Control

Evacuation Notices, Alerts, or Orders:

- Evacuation Order is still in effect.

Location:

- Adjacent to Fort Simpson

Fire size:

15,118+ hectares

The size is estimated based on satellite imagery and GPS tracking from a helicopter.

Weather conditions:

Sustained winds from the southwest 20km/h gusting to 50km/h are currently increasing fire behaviour. Temperatures in the mid teens and minimum relative humidity of 30%.

Incident Status:

- The Fort Simpson wildfire remains a dynamic situation.
- Extreme fire behaviour, meaning wildfire into treetops and flames extending 50 feet above treetops, was observed across the southeastern flank today.
- The wildfire crossed Hwy 1 in several locations to the east of Hwy 1 from the Wrigley turnoff to directly south of Wildrose.
- The wildfire has not entered the main townsite. A spot fire on the north end of the island was quickly attacked by wildland fire crews and helicopters and did not spread south towards town.
- Through the combined efforts of wildfire and Wildland Urban Interface crews, fire activity was successfully limited in residential areas at this time. A clearer picture of the situation will be available tomorrow as smoke clears and a full assessment of the fireground can be completed.
- Satellite remote detection (such as MODIS or FIRMS) is not an accurate source for determining active wildfire on the ground. Heat from the smoke column, which was leaned over directly over Wildrose, is displayed on these websites as suspected fire and does not reflect actual wildfire on the ground. Do not rely on these sources to determine structural impacts.
- The wildfire will remain burning across Hwy 1 overnight. Wildland Urban Interface Crews and other emergency responders will be actively working on Hwy 1 and in residential areas such as Wildrose. Many hazards are present such as danger trees and extremely limited visibility are present. The area is closed to non-essential personal.
- Due to poor visibility, an updated perimeter track is not currently able to be created tonight.

Incident Actions:

- Wildfire crews worked in priority areas along Hwy 1 to limit spread wildfire to the east.
- Wildland Urban Interface crews and equipment worked along Hwy 1 south of town managing wildfire as it crossed Hwy 1 near structures.
- In areas around Wildrose, Wildland Urban Interface crews worked to patrol the area, manage sprinklers on houses and attack spot fires.
- Wildland Urban Interface crews will remain overnight working in Wildrose and north to the causeway to maintain structure protection and prevent structure loss.
- For Notices, Alerts, and Orders updates, visit: <https://www.gov.nt.ca/.../publi.../notices-alerts-and-orders>

Resources:

- Incident Management Team

- Airtankers and Skimmers
 - 10 helicopters
 - 62 wildland firefighters
 - 54 structure protection personnel
 - Various pieces of heavy equipment, structure protection vehicles, and transport vehicles
- For Notices, Alerts, and Orders updates, visit: <https://www.gov.nt.ca/.../publi.../notices-alerts-and-orders>

🚒: Increased fire behaviour south of the main Village of Fort Simpson townsite at 1PM July 3, 2026.

Report new fires to 1-877-NWT-FIRE (698-3473).

Follow us here or visit www.nwtfire.com for the latest – or give an on-call Fire Information Officer a shout at 867-445-5484 if you prefer.