



Chief Louie Lake
R11562

FIRE SIZE:
20,750 hectares

FIRE STATUS:
Out of Control

UPDATE:

The BC Wildfire Service continues to respond to a wildfire currently burning in the traditional territory of Cheslatta Carrier Nation.

The Chief Louie Lake wildfire has experienced fire growth due to hot, dry, and windy conditions. It has been reinstated as a Wildfire of Note to ensure that the public has access to the most current information.



Chief Louie Lake wildfire, picture taken Aug. 13, 2021

The majority of the growth took place on Friday, with fire activity stabilizing on Saturday and Sunday. The fire received a trace of precipitation on Sunday, but experienced strong winds from the southwest associated with a cold front passage. The winds have decreased as of today. Higher relative humidity over the weekend has helped moderate fire behavior; however, the fire remains quite active.

Heavy machinery is on location constructing fire guard lines to the north and east of the fire to contain new growth. Firefighters are identifying and extinguishing hot spots from recent controlled burn activities and are continuing to set up a wet line and do mop-up to help reinforce the control lines. Work continues on the north, northeast, and eastern flanks of the fire. As of today, there are 32 firefighters, 4 helicopters, and 12 pieces of heavy equipment assigned to this wildfire.

Ground crews were supported by air tankers on Friday and Sunday. BCWS is working to keep the wildfire west and south of the Chelasie Arm on the southeast corner. Crews are working to re-establish controls along the northern perimeter between Chief Louie Lake and the northeast corner of the fire. Contingency guards have not been impacted by recent fire activity and are still in effect.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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FIRE STAGES OF CONTROL:

Out of Control	Describes a wildfire that is not responding (or only responding on a limited basis) to suppression action, such that the perimeter spread is not being contained.
Being Held	Indicates that (with the resources currently committed to the fire) sufficient suppression action has been taken that the fire is not likely to spread beyond existing or predetermined boundaries under the prevailing and forecasted conditions.
Under Control	The fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.

WILDFIRE RANKS:

Rank	Description
1	Characteristics: Smouldering ground fire, no open flame, white smoke, slow (i.e. creeping) rate of fire spread. Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools and water delivery systems (i.e. pumps and hose).
2	Characteristics: Surface fire, visible, open flame, unorganised or inconsistent flame front, slow rate of spread. Firefighting tactics: Direct attack with ground crews using hand tools, water delivery systems, or heavy equipment. Hand constructed control lines and lines that have been cleared of combustible material will likely be successful.
3	Characteristics: Organised flame front – fire progressing in organised manner, occasional candling may be observed along the perimeter and/or within the fire, moderate rate of spread. Firefighting tactics: Hand constructed control lines alone are likely to be challenged, ground crews conducting direct attack may require air support from fixed-wing air tankers, skimmers or helicopters conducting bucketing or tanking operations. Control lines constructed by heavy equipment will generally be effective
4	Characteristics: Grey to black smoke, organised surface flame front, moderate to fast rate of spread on the ground, short aerial bursts through the forest canopy, short-range spotting. Firefighting tactics: Ground operations may not be successful at the head of the fire, indirect tactics may be required to bring the head of the fire under control. Parallel attack may be used along the flanks of the fire to direct the head into favourable ground or fuels. Air operations may be required to support ground personnel.
5	Characteristics: Black to copper smoke, organised crown fire front, moderate to long-range spotting and spot fire growth. Firefighting tactics: The limited options available include indirect attack and planned ignitions to remove fuel in the path of this type of fire behaviour. Ground operations are often restricted to fighting the least active sections of the fire or conducting ground ignition operations from secure control lines with readily available escape routes and safety zones.
6	Characteristics: Organised crown fire front, long-range spotting and independent spot fire growth, possible fireballs and whirls, violent fire behaviour probable, a dominant smoke column may develop which influences fire behaviour. Firefighting tactics: Firefighting under these conditions is extremely dangerous. Suppression efforts will be well away from active fire behaviour and may include preparing structure protection measures or conducting indirect large-scale ignition operations in an attempt to steer the fire. Often, the safest and most prudent strategy is to pull resources back to safe areas, ensure that personnel and the general public are safe, and wait for fire behaviour to lessen before re-engaging in fire suppression operations.



RANK 1

RANK 2

RANK 3

RANK 4

RANK 5

RANK 6