


Sparks Lake Fire, Near Kamloops BC, Discovered June 28, 2021

compiled by Miles Epstein and Jalena Bennett, 21 Aug 2023

Contributing Weather

- A “Heat Dome” (anomalously strong ridge associated with high temperatures and low humidity) was stationary over Western Canada for nearly a week, smashing temperature records in Southern BC and setting Canada’s highest recorded temperature ever at 49.6°C. It primed fuels in the wilderness near Kamloops by drying them out and keeping them hot.

Images and videos of fire from media

Image/Video	Caption and Source
	<p>Melissa Martin https://www.castlegarnews.com/news/wildfire-north-of-kamloops-grows-to-20000-hectares-136-properties-evacuated/</p> <p>Pyrocumulus (nimbus)</p>



Steve Kinch

<https://www.castlegarnews.com/news/wildfire-north-of-kamloops-grows-to-20000-hectares-136-properties-evacuated/>

Pyrocumulus (nimbus?)



(Image Credit: Julie Bohnet / Facebook)
<https://cfjctoday.com/2021/07/05/sparks-lake-wildfire-threatening-skeetchestn-no-structures-lost-on-band-land/>

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Kamloops news video including videos of the fire from a distance (Julie Bohnet photo above is taken from the video), burnt building, and more



The Sparks Lake fire burning forests on June 30, 2021. BC Wildfire Service

<https://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/local-news/sparks-lake-wildfire-remains-largest-in-bc-4448975>



The Sparks Lake wildfire burning from the guard inward on July 27, 2021. (BC Wildfire Service)
<https://www.clearwatertimes.com/news/sparks-lake-wildfire-is-now-over-65000-hectares/>

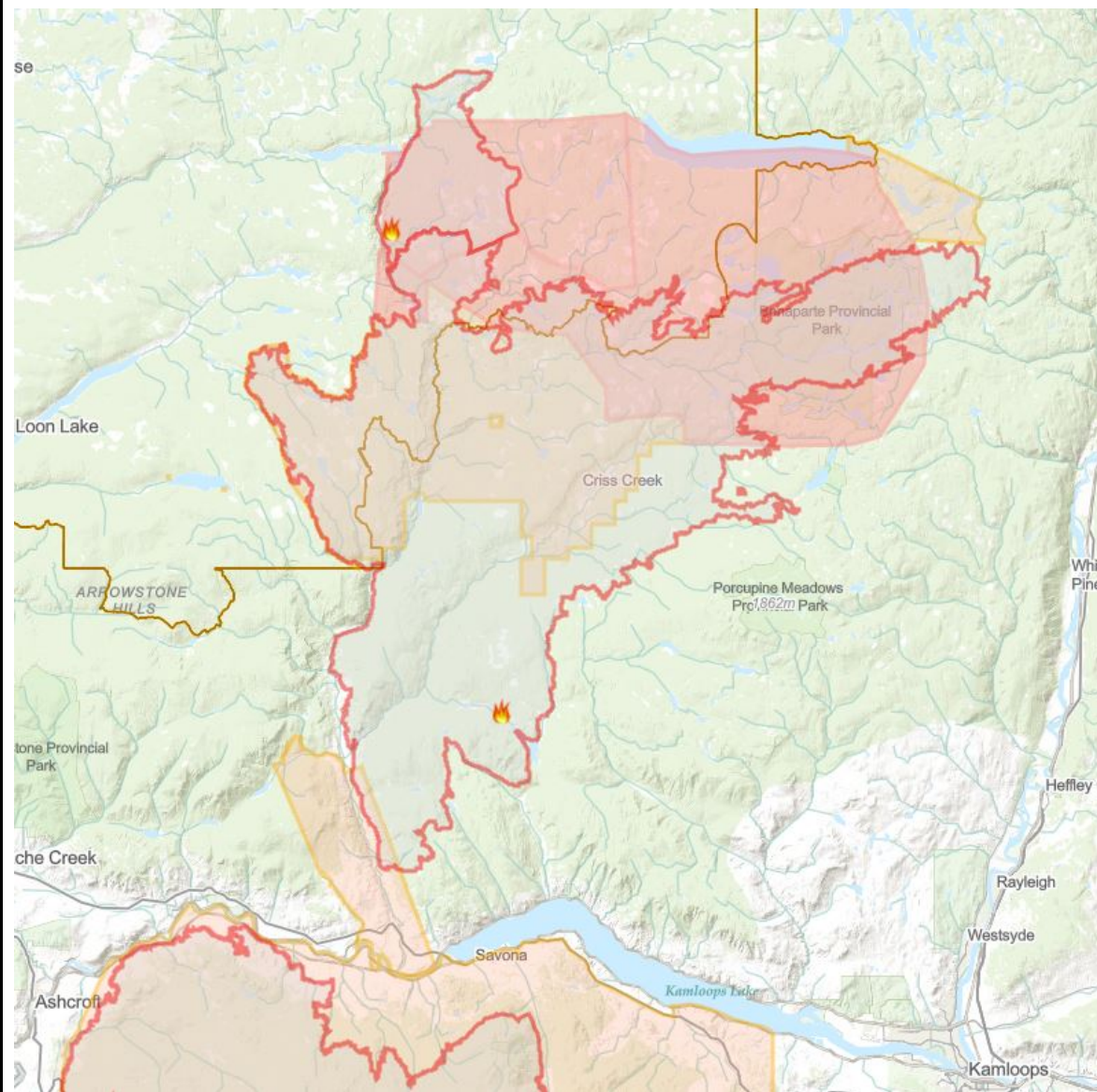


Photo Credit: BCWS

The Sparks Lake wildfire's perimeter just northwest of Kamloops.

[https://www.kamloopsbcnow.com/watercooler/news/news/Wildfire/New evacuation orders issued as Sparks Lake wildfire remains out of control/](https://www.kamloopsbcnow.com/watercooler/news/news/Wildfire/New%20evacuation%20orders%20issued%20as%20Sparks%20Lake%20wildfire%20remains%20out%20of%20control/)

<https://cfictoday.com/2021/07/02/at-least-two-properties-burned-as-a-result-of-sparks-lake-wildfire/>

On-site news video of burned homes, also includes image



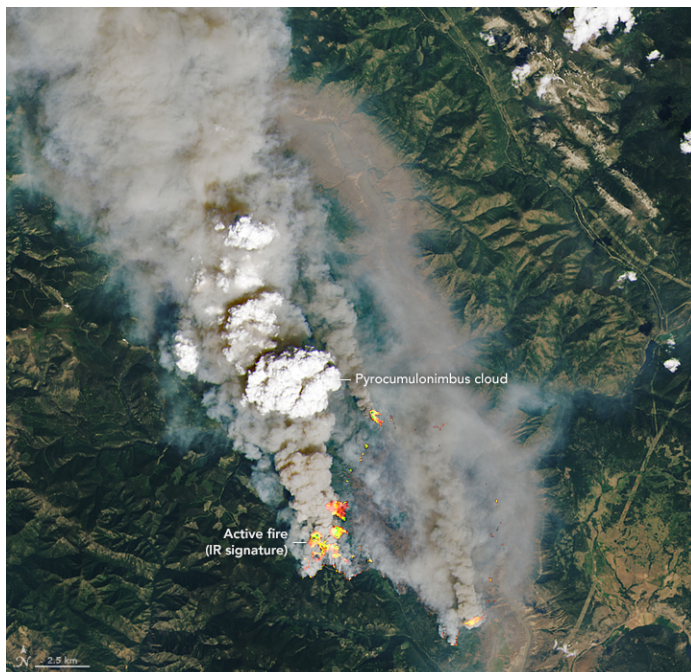
Tom Mills' home along Tranquille-Criss Creek Road was burned by the Sparks Lake wildfire burning northwest of Kamloops Lake (Image Credit: CFJC Today)



<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/148530/blazes-rage-in-british-columbia>

The **Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite** (VIIRS) on the **NOAA-20 satellite** acquired this image (above) around 2 p.m. local time (21:00 Universal Time) on June 30, 2021. By the morning of July 1, the McKay Creek fire (left) and the Sparks Lake fire (right) had burned an estimated 150 and 200 square kilometers (60 and 75 square miles), respectively. A smaller fire is visible just south of the town of Lytton.

Notice the bright white areas over the two larger fires. According to Michael Fromm, a meteorologist with the Naval Research Laboratory, these are the onset of pyrocumulonimbus (pyroCb) clouds—towering clouds created by the convection and heat rising from a fire. The clouds are a mixture of brown smoke and white ice, so they show up whiter than the dry smoke plumes to the west of each fire.



<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/148530/blazes-rage-in-british-columbia>

The second image (below) shows a detailed view of the McKay Creek fire, acquired by the **Operational Land Imager** (OLI) on **Landsat 8** at about 12 p.m. local time (19:00 Universal Time) on June 30, 2021. The natural-color image was overlaid with **shortwave-infrared light** to highlight the active fire.



Photo: BC Wildfire Service

The Sparks Lake fire burning near the Deadman Valley. Covering an estimated 580 square kilometres, the blaze is the largest of those currently burning in B.C.

<https://www.castanetkamloops.net/news/Kamloops/341127/More-than-a-dozen-properties-northwest-of-Kamloops-have-lost-structures-to-Sparks-Lake-fire-TNRD-says>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMqgDsQ__-E

High quality drone footage of burned area

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3s4ZcClfWOY>

Pyrocumulus time lapse (John Blair)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIIHxxvkY4I>

Pyrocumulus time lapse during sunset

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlhQziMStnM>

Civilian footage of planes scooping water from (presumably) thompson river to fight the fire

<https://www.youtube.com/@ot8376>

9 short security cam clips of the fire, close up