



FOREST FIRE

News July 27, 2018 – 20:30

River Valley Cluster Fire Update

The River Valley cluster is being managed by the Rick Moore Incident Management team from Alberta. This cluster includes two fires; North Bay 62 and North Bay 42. Both fires are BEING HELD. We are monitoring North Bay 25, which is now under control.

There are 135 people working on these fires including fire fighters from Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Mexico.



This crew is systematically working its way toward the interior of the wildfire, extinguishing hotspots and smouldering ground fire along the way.

North Bay 42:

- Location: North of Red Cedar Lake
- Size: 350 Hectares
- Status: Being Held

North Bay 62:

- Location: Southwest of Hand Lake
- Size: 2,500 Hectares
- Status: Being Held

Crews made solid progress on all fires today, working under drier conditions than we've had for the past couple of days. On North Bay 42 crews worked on the south side. On North Bay 62 crews continued to work the perimeter while other crews continued to recover equipment from the fire.

We continue to monitor North Bay 25, west of the cluster, which is about 200 hectares. This fire is now UNDER CONTROL. Some smoke was visible today and crews worked to extinguish hot spots.



Saturday's Forecast

Cloudy with scattered showers in the morning, possible clearing in the afternoon. We're expecting a high of 19 degrees, humidity of 66%, winds W/NW 10-15 gusting to 20-30 km/hr.

Unsettled weather with continue on Sunday with partial clearing and risk of scattered storms in the afternoon.

Note: SW winds are bringing smoke from other wildfires into the River Valley area. There are no new wildfires in this area.



Marc Serre, MP for Nickel Belt, and other local dignitaries visited River Valley Cluster today.

Inspired by the firefighters above, who carry 65-pound packs with fire hose, Mr. Serre tried on the gear with assistance from Stephen Willis.

Did You Know?

It's been a busy forest fire season in Ontario! To date, Ontario has had just over 3 times more fires this year than last year at this time and almost twice as many as the 10 year average.

Fires to Date – Current: 823 Hectares burned: 211 945

Fires to Date – Last Year: 243 Hectares burned: 78 088

Fires to Date – 10 Year Average: 496 Hectares burned: 106 753

The forest fire community from across Canada and the world are partners in the protection of people, property, and forests. So often, different jurisdictions come to the aid of those in need. Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services (AFFES) are leaders in sharing resources when neighbours near and far request assistance.

Previous years Ontario has traveled across Canada, the United States, and in some instances internationally. In 2017

alone Ontario fire personnel provided assistance to British Columbia, Parks Canada in Alberta, Manitoba and aircraft with flight crew to Montana. The opportunity to help others in need always presents learning opportunities for AFFES to grow and improve upon operational practices.

So far in 2018, Ontario has received assistance from the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Parks Canada, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Mexico. The response to our call for assistance has been very generous.

It seems that by being a sharing neighbour, we have in return, received support from far and wide. Our appreciation for the forest fire colleges that join us from across Canada, the United States, and as far away as Mexico, is heartfelt and will be remembered by Ontario for many years to come.



Fire personnel from Mexico arrive in Sudbury. (Above)



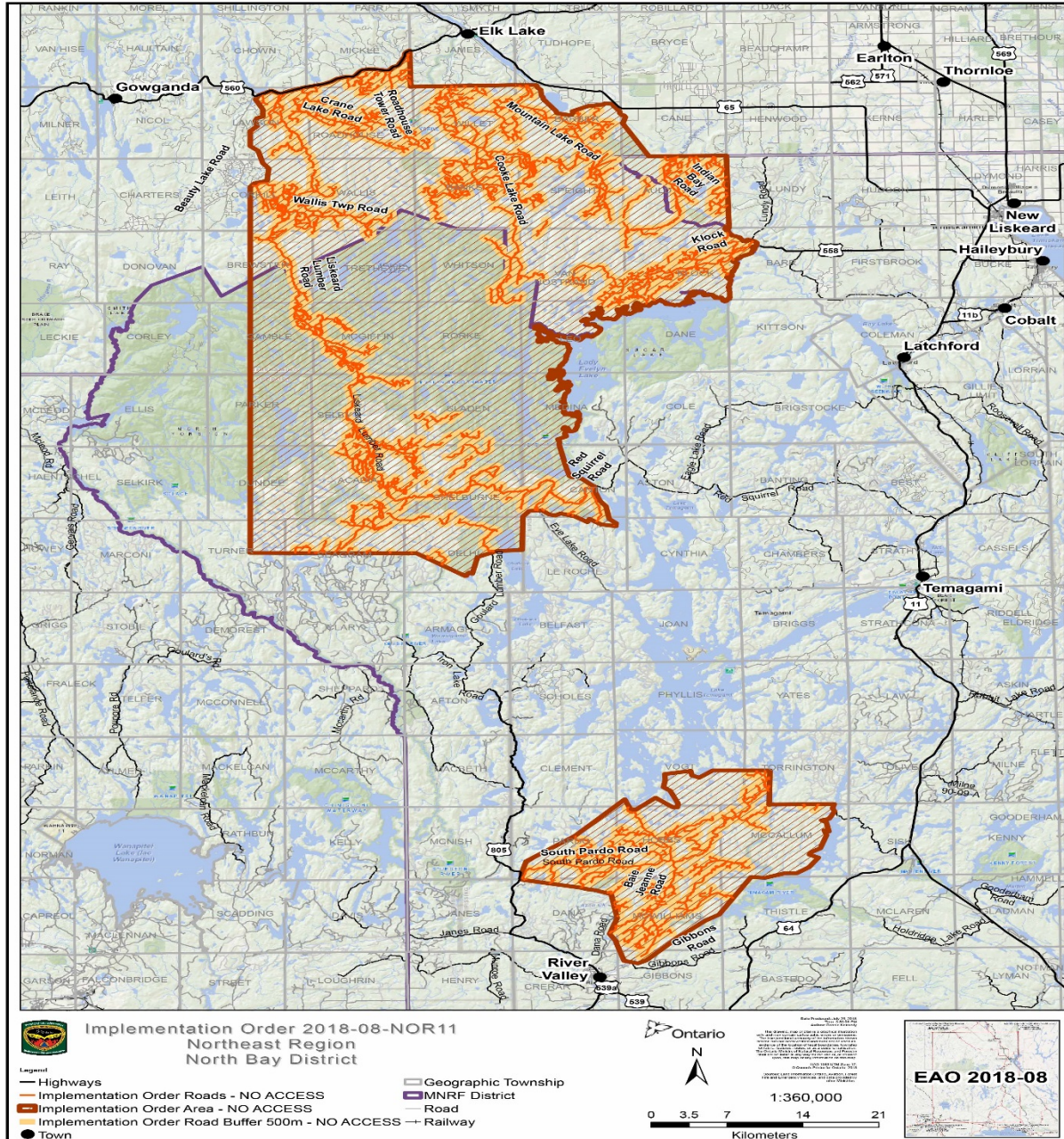
Fire personnel from Minnesota arrive in Dryden. (Above)



Fire personnel from across Canada are briefed in Sudbury. (Above)

Travel Restrictions

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is prohibiting access in portions of North Bay, Sudbury and Kirkland Lake Districts where there are public safety hazards resulting from increased fire activity. Crown land camping, boating, day-tripping, hiking, ATViing as well as accessing private or commercial camps or cottages are not permitted in the area covered by the travel restrictions. **For inquiries about the travel restrictions, please call: 705-475-5546**



Restricted Fire Zone

A Restricted Fire Zone remains in effect.

When a Restricted Fire Zone is declared, it is illegal to set a fire within the affected area. Failure to comply could result in a fine of up to \$25,000 and three months in jail, as well as the financial responsibility for any costs incurred in fighting a forest fire caused by the illegal act.

If you need heat for cooking and warmth, you must use a portable gas or propane stove. Portable charcoal equipment (ex. BBQs, Hibachis, etc) are illegal for use during a Restricted Fire Zone, except close to a dwelling you legally own or occupy or in an organized campground.

Visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/outdoor-fire-restrictions> for more information.

Smoke Concerns

Many Ontario residents have reported smoke drift in their communities. Smokey conditions are expected to continue when fires are active until weather patterns change.

We would like to remind the public that if they do see flames or smoke, please report it by calling 310-FIRE. Stay away from the area for public safety.

If you have questions or concerns about smoke and your health, please contact TeleHealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000