



FOREST FIRE

News – August 2, 2018

Lady Evelyn Park Cluster Fire Update

The Lady Evelyn Park Cluster continues to be managed by the Bob Hurley Incident Management Team (IMT) from Ontario. This cluster includes the following fires North Bay 18, 19, 46, 47, 59 and 72.

As the low pressure system moved in to the area on August 2, 2018 we received wide spread rain. The cloud cover we had in the morning kept some of the helicopters from flying until closer to noon because of poor visibility. On the fireline, wet, cloudy days give the FireRangers a bit of reprieve and a chance to really consolidate their hoselines.

When a low pressure system moves in, it tends to bring fast moving winds which means extra safety must be taken on the fireline. Trees that have had their root systems burnt out will fall over in high winds because they don't have the support to stay upright – falling trees are a serious safety hazard for FireRangers.

A total of 10 helicopters remain assigned to this cluster and infrared scanning continues to occur in the early morning and late evenings on all fires.

North Bay 72

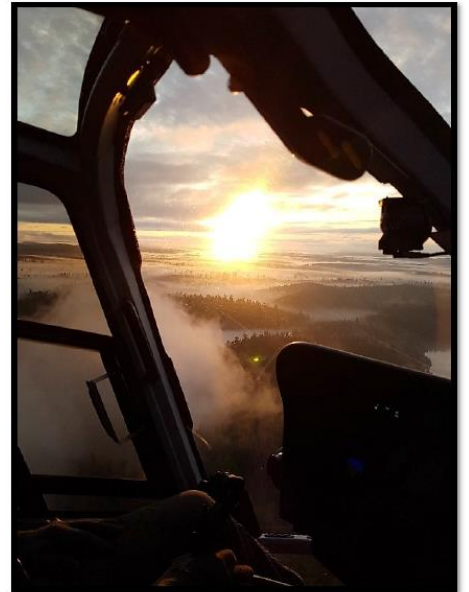
- This fire was first recorded on July 8, 2018.
- There is now over 16km of dozer guard on this fire.
- FireRanger crews are transitioning over the next few days as some head home and others are just arriving.

Forecast and weather information



Friday's Forecast

We anticipate light southerly winds to occur over the weekend with temperatures in the low 20's and relative humidity levels between 50-60%. Sunday will be warmer than Saturday and then on Monday it looks like more unsettled weather will work its way into the area.



Above photo: Left picture shows a burn patch on North Bay Fire 072; middle picture is Helitack 21 which is owned by the MNRF and flown by a MNRF pilot; right picture was taken during an early morning flight when staff were conducting infrared scanning.



Above photo: Helicopters wait on the tarmac at the Earlington Airport for a break in the weather before heading out to area fires to work.

The Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) Remains in Effect.

A Restricted Fire Zone remains in effect for the majority of northeastern Ontario.

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 or see a map of the affected areas.

Travel Restrictions Remain in Place for the Holiday Weekend.

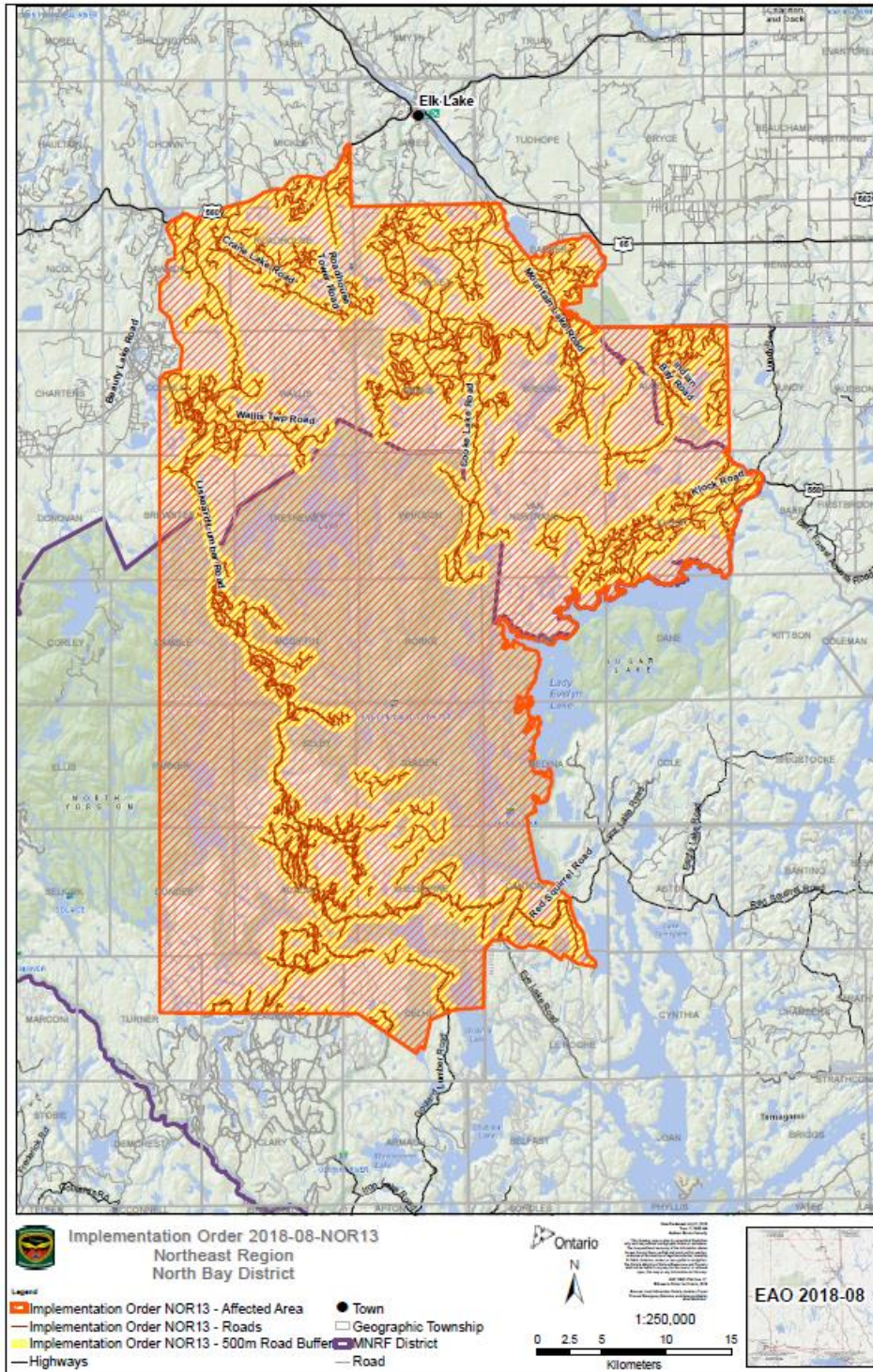
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry continues to advise the public that due to the current forest fire situation in the Elk Lake and Lady Evelyn area, an Implementation Order remains in effect that restricts access to certain roads, parks and Crown lands. **Travel restrictions in the River Valley area have been rescinded.**

Access to areas within the Implementation Order area is restricted and road blocks have been set up to notify the public of the closures. Within the area, Crown land camping, boating, the landing of float planes, day-tripping, hiking, ATVing as well as accessing private or commercial camps and cottages are NOT permitted. Permits are required to travel through the restricted area.

For inquiries about the travel restrictions, please call:

North Bay MNR 705-475-5546.

Kirkland Lake MNR 705-568-3201.



Visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires#travel> for more information and to find a digital map of the restricted areas across Ontario.

Forest fires are a natural and necessary part of the ecosystem.



All forests, even healthy ones, contain dead trees and decaying plant matter. A forest fire turns this decaying matter to ashes which allows nutrients to return to the soil.



Forest fires clear thick growth in the forest canopy so that sunlight can reach the forest floor and encourage the growth of native species.



Forest fires allow some tree species, like lodgepole and jack pine, to reproduce, by opening their cones and freeing their seeds.



Fires can also provide a way for controlling insect pests by killing off the older or diseased trees and leaving the younger, healthier trees.



Trees burned by forest fires provide habitat for nesting birds and homes for mammals.



Many different kinds of insects benefit from forest fires as they eat their way through the burnt landscape. These insects become food themselves for birds.



The shrubs and grasses, fertilized by the nutrients released by the fire, will grow lush and thick, which will feed the deer, moose and other wildlife.



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. 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.

Contact Numbers and Online Information

For more information about travel restrictions:

- North Bay MNRF 705-475-5546.
- Kirkland Lake MNRF 705-568-3201.

For general information about the fire situation: 705-564-6165

For information about highway closures: 5-1-1

For inquiries regarding Ontario Parks closures and updates:

- Finlayson Point (including Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater, Obabika River, Makobe-Grays, Solace and Sturgeon River): 705-569-3205



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