

# WILDFIRE UPDATE



## Information Bulletin

### Behchokò/Yellowknife Fire (ZF015) – July 30 (10:30am)

Fire status	Fire size (estimated)	Distance from landmarks (approx.)	Resources
Out-of-control	113,097 hectares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Behchokò (Rae) – reached community</li><li>Frank Channel – reached area</li><li>Behchokò (Edzo) – 4km east; <b>has not crossed Frank Channel</b></li><li>Yellowknife – 45km northwest</li><li>Highway 3 – burned over from km 282 – km 248</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Incident Management Team</li><li>8 crews</li><li>3 Helicopters</li><li>Structure protection team</li><li>Heavy equipment</li><li>Airtankers</li></ul>

#### Safety Information

- An evacuation order remains in place for Behchokò. Do not return to the community. Contact community government for more information.
- Drive carefully, keep up to date with the Department of Infrastructure for the latest on highway status and closures. Search Highway Conditions NWT on phone or computer to follow the highway conditions map.

#### Current status

- The fire has not crossed Frank Channel towards Edzo.**
- Four structures are confirmed lost to this fire. **Highway 3 and Stagg Lake area assessment expected soon.** Our hearts are with everyone who lost their homes.
- Structure protection continues to hold at Frank Channel – no structures lost. Most remaining fuel around the area is deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves), which causes much less intense fire.
- The Stagg River power station has not been compromised.
- The fibre optic line has not been compromised. This remains a risk going forward.
- Steps being taken now to build up protections to prevent fire becoming a threat to Yellowknife.

#### What we're doing

- Securing a perimeter around Rae:** crews will be working in and extinguished all fuel within the perimeter of the fire – working towards 300 feet in. This is a critical step to making Rae safe again.
- Securing Frank Channel:** Once Rae is in good shape at its perimeter, we will turn our attention to Frank Channel – improving upon the network of structure protection by working on putting out hotspots and securing a perimeter to protect it over the long term, and reduce the chance of spot fires towards.
- Structure protection:** sprinkler line being maintained along perimeter of Rae; Frank Channel sprinklers maintained; continued gelling and sprinkler setup on cabins and homes on Highway 3.



- **Reconnaissance:** reconnaissance will be hampered today due to visibility challenges. Will resume when able.
- **Addressing potential future risk to Yellowknife area:** Airtanker missions continue to be planned as available to complete a retardant line from Great Slave Lake north to previously burned areas to the east of this fire. This is one step being taken to discourage growth to the east in the future and prepare for potential future operations. **There is no risk to the city currently.**

### Conditions

Visibility extremely poor this morning due to heavy smoke and fog. This will likely mean flights grounded for at least the morning for safety. Approximately 10-11mm of rain in Behchokò at Rae in the last 24 hours is going to keep fire activity down today. West winds expected today – 10km/h gusting 20km/h. However, thunderstorm cells in area may cause erratic winds – safety will be critical under these conditions. Fire is not expected to grow today due to the rain.

### Next update

Next update planned tonight after 7pm. Critical updates may be issued as needed.

### Latest map (updated July 29)



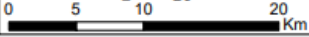
# ZF015 Public Map

Date: 2023-07-29  
Time: 18:00  
Size: 113,097 ha  
1:350,000

Projection:  
Albers Equal Area  
(-96, 20, 60, 40)

Note: This is not a legal document

Map Author: Razu Ahmed  
Author Email: razu\_ahmed@gov.nt.ca



- ZF015-23 16:00
- Community
- Yellowknife Highway
- Trails
- Cutlines
- Wetlands
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes

- Fire Year
- pre 1980
  - 1981-1985
  - 1991-1995
  - 1996-2000
  - 2001-2005
  - 2006-2010
  - 2011-2015
  - 2016-2022

