

Status Update – Mount Underwood Wildfire and Franklin River Road closure



Date: September 17, 2025

Background

On August 11, 2025, a wildfire ignited on Mount Underwood near China Creek Marina. The fire burned rapidly upslope, causing considerable damage. As a result of the fire Franklin River Road (Bamfield Main Road) was closed. Although the wildfire is still burning, it is not projected to spread beyond the current perimeter. It is classified as **Under Control** and remains at 3,518 hectares.

The incident command team handed operations over to the Coastal Fire Centre.

A 1.5-kilometer section of the Bamfield Main Road remains closed at least until the end of October because of slope instability related to damage from the fire.

Updates

Mount Underwood Wildfire:

- BC Wildfire Service now classifies the wildfire as Under Control.
- BCWS continues to work in this area, with 37 crew and five pieces of heavy equipment. They remain focussed on patrols and mop up efforts.
- The crew is asking people travelling to China Creek, by Franklin River Road, to drive with caution as they are working along the roadway.
- To ensure public safety and to support BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) efforts to contain the Mount Underwood fire, Tsawak-qin Forestry Inc. has been authorized under Section 22.2(3)(b)(i) of the Forest and Range Practices Act to temporarily restrict access to the public on Road Permit R07659 at the junction of Hawthorne Main and Bamfield Main in Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 44.

Franklin River Road closure:

- A 1.5-kilometre stretch of Franklin River Road (Bamfield Main Road), between kilometre 8 and kilometre 9.5, remains closed due to unstable slopes affected by fire.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) announced on September 15 that it is aiming to have the Bamfield Main Road fully open by the end of October 2025.
- For full details, please refer to the Ministry's new release: [Work underway to re-open Bamfield Main Road by end of October](#)
- The MOTT is working in conjunction with Mosaic and other agencies to manage the road closure of portions of Bamfield Main and Hawthorne Main.

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Geotechnical assessment:

- A geotechnical assessment has been completed to identify hazard risks. Based on these findings, the ministry is developing an operating guideline, like the approach at Cameron Lake, that will establish rain and wind thresholds for increased patrols and potential pre-emptive closures.
- Assessments of dangerous trees are ongoing, and the ministry is co-ordinating tree falling and related utility work.

Road agreement:

- The Ministry of Transportation and Transit continues to lead efforts to safely re-open Bamfield Main Road, in co-operation with Mosaic Forest Management. This includes plans for managing debris fall as we enter the winter months.

Youbou route: No update.

- Ditidaht continues to maintain the road with support from MOTT.
- This is still the only available alternate route.

Emergency Operations Centre:

- The ACRD continues to operate an Emergency Operations Centre under a State of Local Emergency with an evacuation order still in place for KM7 to KM10.
- EOC team hosted a community meeting in Bamfield on Monday, September 15 for residents of Bamfield and Anacla – minutes from this meeting will be shared on September 19.
- The EOC has opened the Alberni Inlet Trail – China Creek to Franklin River – signage is in place to warn that access to the south end of the trail is only via Youbou.

Related Links

[2025 Mount Underwood Wildfire](#)

[Work underway to re-open Bamfield Main Road by end of October](#)

[MOTT takes the lead on Bamfield Main](#)

[ACRD updated Evacuation Alert and Order](#)

[South Island Natural Resource District road safety information - Province of British Columbia](#)

[South Island Natural Resource District's Road Safety page](#)

Date of Next Update: September 19, 2025