

# Status Update – Mount Underwood Wildfire and Franklin River Road closure



**Date:** November 5, 2025 – Status updates will be weekly moving forward unless there is a development

## 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.

## Updates

**Mount Underwood Wildfire:** No update

- BCWS continues to work in this area and is now focused on patrol and mop-up activities.

**Franklin River Road closure:**

- Franklin River Road (Bamfield Main) is open following extensive safety and repair work by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT).
- For updates go to [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca). If you are not seeing updates, take these steps
  - When in the Map, on the right-hand side there will be a “Map Layers” menu.
  - Select "Future Events" – this is where you can see planned closures.
  - The symbol for scheduled future events is a red diamond with a calendar in it. When you select that, the details will show up on the left-hand side of your screen.
- MOTT has installed a weather station to monitor wind and precipitation levels, providing real-time data to help guide road-closure decisions during severe weather. An operating protocol is in place to guide closures during periods of high wind or heavy rainfall, ensuring public safety remains the top priority.
- MOTT installed two emergency gates at both ends of this stretch of road to assist with quick implementation of closures, if required.
- Extensive signage has also been installed.

**Geotechnical assessment:** No update

- A geotechnical assessment has been completed to identify hazard risks.
- Based on these findings, MOTT 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.
- Removal of dangerous trees is ongoing, and MOTT is co-ordinating tree falling and related utility work with Telus and BC Hydro.

**Youbou route:** (No update)

- The Carmanah Main/North Shore Road through Youbou remains an alternate route for when the road between Port Alberni and Bamfield is closed.

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## Emergency Operations Centre:

- The ACRD continues to operate an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).
- The EOC is transitioning out of a State of Local Emergency and has submitted a request to Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to declare a Local Recovery Period. The EOC is awaiting their approval.
- There are no longer Evacuation Orders in place in relation to Mount Underwood Wildfire.
- There are no restrictions for the area affected by the Mount Underwood Wildfire.
- If this changes, all evacuation alerts and orders can be found here: [ACRD Emergency Alerts](#).
- The Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth (JEG) is leading a Business Recovery Working Group to understand the economic impacts, share resources, identify ongoing needs, and develop a strategy to support local businesses.
- The EMCR Recovery Unit is leading a Community Recovery Working Group to help support and address ongoing health, wellness and residential needs. A Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) has been completed to reflect these concerns.

## Related Links

[2025 Mount Underwood Wildfire](#)

[BC Gov News Release - MOTT re Bamfield Road](#)

[Bamfield Road re-opening October 24 - MOTT](#)

[Bamfield Main Road reopening planned for Oct. 24 - MOTT](#)

[RCMP called as Bamfield residents defy roadblocks that 'shut the town down'](#)

[Ditidaht statement on Road Access - Facebook](#)

[Huu-ay-aht public notice - Facebook](#)

[AV Emergency Program Facebook](#)

[ACRD Emergency Alerts](#)

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

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

[ACRD updated Evacuation Alert and Order](#)

[Island Health Bamfield and Region Health Supports Facebook](#)

[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:** November 12, 2025