

Status Update – Mount Underwood Wildfire and Franklin River Road closure



Date: November 24, 2025 – Moving forward, Status updates will be as needed if 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 classified as **Under Control** and remains at 3,518 hectares, BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) believes there is minimal risk that any fire activity remains in the area.

Updates

Gratitude from the ACRD EOC

As the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) focuses on recovery work with the Mount Underwood Wildfire incident, we want to share our gratitude.

It feels like we have had an Emergency Operation Centre running most of the summer. Starting with a tsunami warning on July 29, followed by the threat of Highway 4 closing again because of the Wesley Ridge Wildfire, we saw some early low-level activations focused on monitoring and communications. Just when we thought the risk from that wildfire ended, the Mount Underwood Wildfire started on August 11.

This was not how any of us wanted to end our summer, but we appreciate everyone who shared their time and expertise to help in the EOC, in community, and on the site of the fire. We offer our sincere thanks to everyone who pushed their regular work to the side of their desks to focus on the emergencies that were on our doorstep.

To say we were lucky, is an understatement – not only the rain that came and helped control the wildfire, but for the generosity we witness throughout. We were fortunate enough to receive so much support, instantly showing us what community really means.

When something like this happens to a community, you really get to see the importance of relationships. As our community faced the worst wildfire in our history, it was the relationships we built that kept us strong. Together not only did we have support in our EOC from across the province and beyond, but the communities were stepping up asking what they could do to help.

It is because of these relationships that we made it through the wildfire, power outage, and road closure. Thank you.

Mount Underwood Wildfire:

- BCWS continues to monitor the situation, but there are no longer any personnel onsite.
- They will update the fire's status when it meets a certain threshold.
- If you are in the area and believe you see fire activity, please call the tips line: #5555 on your cell phone or call 1-800-663-5555. This line is always monitored.

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Franklin River Road closure: No update

- 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. 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.

Emergency Operations Centre:

- The ACRD continues to operate an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) with a focus on monitoring and recovery.
- 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: As needed

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