

Status Update – Mount Underwood Wildfire and Franklin River Road closure



Date: October 8, 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. 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: No update

- BCWS continues to work in this area and is now focused on suppression actions to limit the spread of unwanted wildfire.

Franklin River Road closure:

- The Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) 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.
- Subject to weather conditions, MOTT are still on track to have the work completed by the end of October – [Work underway to re-open Bamfield Main Road by end of October](#)
- On the weekend, protestors gathered at either end of the road closure. These actions created an unsafe environment for MOTT workers and the worksite was shut down. In response, public notices and social media posts were issued by the ACRD, Ditidaht, and Huu-ay-aht:
 - Ditidaht issued a public notice on Facebook with road access information - [Ditidaht statement on Road Access - Facebook](#)
 - Huu-ay-aht First Nations issued a social media update: [Huu-ay-aht public notice - Facebook](#)
 - The ACRD Emergency Program shared the Ditidaht post and the Mosaic statement, along with one from the EOC.
- 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.
- MOTT is working on the procurement and installation of road closure, improving signage, and road base and road surface repairs following the completion of the danger tree falling activities
- MOTT will be adding a weather station in the area to help inform future closures based on weather conditions.

Geotechnical assessment: No update

- A geotechnical assessment has been completed to identify hazard risks.

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- 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.
- Assessments and removal of dangerous trees are ongoing, and MOTT is co-ordinating tree falling and related utility work with Telus and BC Hydro.

Youbou route: No update

- MOTT has approved only one alternate route – via Carmanah Main/North Shore Road through Youbou.
- Ditidaht continues to maintain the road with support from MOTT.

Emergency Operations Centre: No update

- The ACRD continues to operate an Emergency Operations Centre under a State of Local Emergency with an evacuation order in place for KM7 to KM10.
- The EOC issued a revised Evacuation Order, decreasing the zone in size to the west side of Mount Underwood where the Mount Underwood Wildfire remains an active worksite: [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 Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (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.
- The ACRD EOC continues to participate in a Franklin River Road Working Group, which collaborates on concerns and work related to road safety and restoration.

Related Links

[2025 Mount Underwood Wildfire](#)

[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 takes the lead on Bamfield Main](#)

[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: October 10, 2025