

Status Update – Mount Underwood Wildfire and Franklin River Road closure



Date: October 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. A 1.5-kilometre section of the Bamfield Main Road remains closed at least until October 24 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 patrol and mop-up activities.

Franklin River Road closure: No update

- The Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) is working to safely reopen Bamfield Main Road.
- MOTT has installed the weather station to help inform future closures based on weather conditions.
- Significant progress has been made in recent weeks and the targeted reopening date is Friday, Oct. 24, 2025. For full details go to MOTT's media release: [Bamfield Main Road reopening planned for Oct. 24](#)
- The 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.
- ACRD, Ditidaht, and Huu-ay-aht continue to encourage people to stay out of the area around to road close to let the crew continue to work:
 - Ditidaht issued a public notice: [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.
- MOTT will install road closure gates and signage and complete surface repairs following the completion of the danger tree-falling activities.

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

- 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.

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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](#)

[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: October 20, 2025