

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



**Date:** September 12, 2025

## Background

On August 11, 2026, a wildfire ignited on Mount Underwood near China Creek Marina. The fire burned rapidly upslope, causing considerable damage. As a result of the fire the Bamfield Road was closed. Although the Mount Underwood is not expected to expand beyond its current perimeter. It is classified as Being Held and remains at 3,328 hectares.

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

A 1.5-kilometer section of the Bamfield Road remains closed indefinitely because of slope instability related to damage from the fire.

## Updates

### Mount Underwood Wildfire:

- BC Wildfire Service continues to work in this area.
- 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 Bamfield Main Road, between kilometre 8 and kilometre 9.5, remains closed due to unstable slopes affected by fire.
- The Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) has placed hard barriers at each end of the closed portion of road and is working in conjunction with Mosaic and other agencies to manage the road closure.
- Portions of Bamfield Main and Hawthorne Main are closed.

### Geotechnical assessment:

- Working with MOTT, BCWS, and Mosaic on geotechnical work, we will provide updates as soon as we receive them.
- The EOC is ensuring permits are in place that gives access to the closed area to do Geotech work.

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## Road agreement:

- The Ministry of Transportation and Transit is now leading 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:

- 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.
- EOC team will host a community meeting in Bamfield on Monday, September 15 for residents of Bamfield and Anacla.
- An evacuation order remains in place for approximately KM7 to approximately KM10 of Franklin River Road and an adjacent upslope portion of land.
- This Order remains in place due to concerns regarding steep slopes, falling debris, and danger trees that pose safety risks to the public.
- Working with Ditidaht First Nation and Huu-ay-aht First Nations to coordinate State of Local Emergency, which remains in place in the ACRD.
- Continue to communicate – external and internal – as the situation changes.

## Related Links

[2025 Mount Underwood Wildfire](#)

[BC Gov News](#) – Province takes lead on road

[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 15, 2025

In-person community meeting