

Status Update – Mount Underwood Wildfire and Franklin River Road closure



Date: September 26, 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.

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

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:

- BCWS continues to work in this area, with 37 crew and five pieces of heavy equipment. They remain focused on patrols and mop up efforts as some areas continue to smoulder and burn.
- The crew is asking people travelling to China Creek, by Franklin River Road, to drive with caution as they are working along the roadway.

Franklin River Road closure:

- 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.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) announced they are aiming to have the Bamfield Main Road fully open by the end of October 2025: [Work underway to re-open Bamfield Main Road by end of October](#)
- The MOTT is working in conjunction with Mosaic and other agencies to manage the road closure of portions of Bamfield Main and Hawthorne Main.
- MOTT has ordered the closure gates, and they are expected to arrive and be installed in the coming weeks.
- MOTT will be adding a weather station in the area to help inform future closures based on weather conditions.

Geotechnical assessment:

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

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Road agreement: No update

- 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.

Youbou route: No update

- Ditidaht is working with MOTT on the development and placement of signage.
- Ditidaht continues to maintain the road with support from MOTT.
- This is still the only available alternate route.

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 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.
- Minutes from the community meeting in Bamfield on Monday, September 15 are available here: www.acrd.bc.ca/mount-underwood-wildfire.
- Island Health has developed the Bamfield and Region Health Supports document. It can be found here: www.acrd.bc.ca/mount-underwood-wildfire.

Related Links

[2025 Mount Underwood Wildfire](#)

[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](#)

[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 29, 2025