



FOREST FIRE

News August 4, 2018 – 20:30

Parry Sound 33 Fire Update

- The fire has been remapped to 11, 362 hectares. The increase is due to very minimal growth on the south east flank, south of Key River, which crews quickly contained.
- Thanks to the good work of our crews, there were no control issues with the fire perimeter today even with today's winds, high temperatures and low humidity.
- The swampy area on the north-northeast side near Little Canoe Channel and the north side near the Pickerel River continued to hold showing little sign of fire movement.
- Crews continued to consolidate hose lines in preparation for increased burning conditions today (Saturday) and Sunday. Crews have utilized over 300,000 feet of hose in fire suppression and structure protection, which is equivalent to 167 CN Towers!
- Helicopter buckets worked in conjunction with crews to assist with isolated pockets of flare ups and higher intensity fire.
- The west side of the fire remained quiet. We don't anticipate any further issues for this side for the foreseeable future.
- Tomorrow will bring another hot, windy day with high temperatures and low humidity levels. Crews are placed in critical positions in anticipation of increased fire potential. Wind gusts of up to 50km/h could mean that the fire activity could increase and once again challenge crews.
- Even though crews continue to make excellent progress, Parry Sound Fire 33 is still listed as Not Under Control. Hot, dry conditions and wind could cause flare ups and high fire intensity.
- As suppression efforts continue, we recognize there will be questions about when people can return to their properties. As of today, all fire bans and travel restrictions remain in place. As containment of the fire continues, restrictions will be reassessed by local agencies.

Parry Sound 33 Resources

- 268 firefighters and support staff
- 15 helicopters
- An incident management team
- Water bomber support

Forecast and Weather Information

Next 7 Days							
	Sun 08/05	Mon 08/06	Tue 08/07	Wed 08/08	Thu 08/09	Fri 08/10	Sat 08/11
	Mainly sunny	Risk of a thunderstorm	A Few showers	A Few showers	Mainly sunny	Chance of a shower	Sunny
	29°	26°	25°	23°	24°	25°	25°
Night	19°	20°	18°	18°	18°	17°	17°
Feels like	37	34	31	27	30	29	29
POP	20 %	60 %	70 %	40 %	20 %	40 %	10 %
Wind (km/h)	18 SW	17 SW	13 N	14 E	14 W	11 SW	15 SW
Wind gust (km/h)	27	26	20	21	21	17	23
Hrs Of Sun	9 h	7 h	6 h	8 h	10 h	10 h	14 h
24 Hr Rain	~5 mm	~10 mm	~5 mm	1-3 mm	-	~1 mm	<1 mm

Sunday will see temperatures in the high 20’s with mild humidity levels. Throughout the day, expect a mix of sun and cloud to partly cloudy skies. Unstable conditions may result in possible precipitation, but it is anticipated that minimal precipitation will hit the fire area. Southwesterly winds sustained from 10-15 km/h in the morning become 15-20 km/h gusting 35-45 km/h in the afternoon. Occasional wind gusts of 50-55 km/h are possible in the late afternoon and into the early evening as a result of a low-level jet over the area. Southwesterly winds become sustained from 10-15 km/h later in the evening.

Travel Restrictions

Travel restrictions in parts of Parry Sound and Sudbury districts due to forest fires

Pursuant to the Emergency Area Order signed July 21, 2018, an Implementation Order has been issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry prohibiting access and travel in portions of Parry Sound District where there are public safety hazards as a result of increased fire activity from Parry Sound #033.

The Order restricts travel, access and use in an identified area (see attached map below) and may be modified regularly to reflect changing fire conditions.

This measure has been put in place to ensure public safety while allowing fire personnel to safely and effectively suppress the fires in the identified area.

- All travel and use of all **water ways east and west** of Hwy. 69 in Mowat, Mason, Bigwood, Allen, Struthers, Kilpatrick and Travers townships and all associated tributaries that access the river systems, including all access from Georgian Bay, and all islands on Georgian Bay within the French River Provincial Park boundaries, Dokis Island system, and Puddick Island and all islands north of Henvey Inlet 2, southern boundary from mainland due west to Potvin Point is prohibited unless authorized by travel permit issued by Parry Sound District or Sudbury District Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).
- All road access west of Hwy. 69 in Bigwood, Allen, Struthers, Kilpatrick and Travers townships is prohibited and the unsurveyed lands from the French River to Nesbitt Creek including 14 Mile Island and French River Provincial Park and to the southern border of Henvey Inlet 2 Indian Reserve, excluding business and residences north of the French River directly adjacent to the west side of Hwy. 69.

If a member of the public believes that access within the restricted travel area is necessary for non-recreational purposes, please send a travel request to travelpermitsPAR033@ontario.ca. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will review the request for access based on the rationale provided, local fire activity, and the potential fire risk.

See the [restricted travel and access areas on this PDF map](#) (Note: this map gets updated regularly).

For inquiries about the travel restrictions, please call:

- Parry Sound MNRF 705-773-4218.
- Sudbury MNRF 705-564-7963

Restricted Fire Zone

A Fire Restriction remains in effect.

When a Restricted Fire Zone is declared, it is illegal to set a fire within the affected area. Failure to comply could result in a fine of up to \$25,000 and three months in jail, as well as the financial responsibility for any costs incurred in fighting a forest fire caused by the illegal act. If you need heat for cooking and warmth, you must use a portable gas or propane stove. Portable charcoal equipment (ex. BBQs, Hibachis, etc.) are illegal for use during a Restricted Fire Zone, except close to a dwelling you legally own or occupy or in an organized campground.

Visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/outdoor-fire-restrictions> for more information.

Smoke Concerns

Many Ontario residents have reported smoke drift in their communities. Smokey conditions are expected to continue when fires are active until weather patterns change.

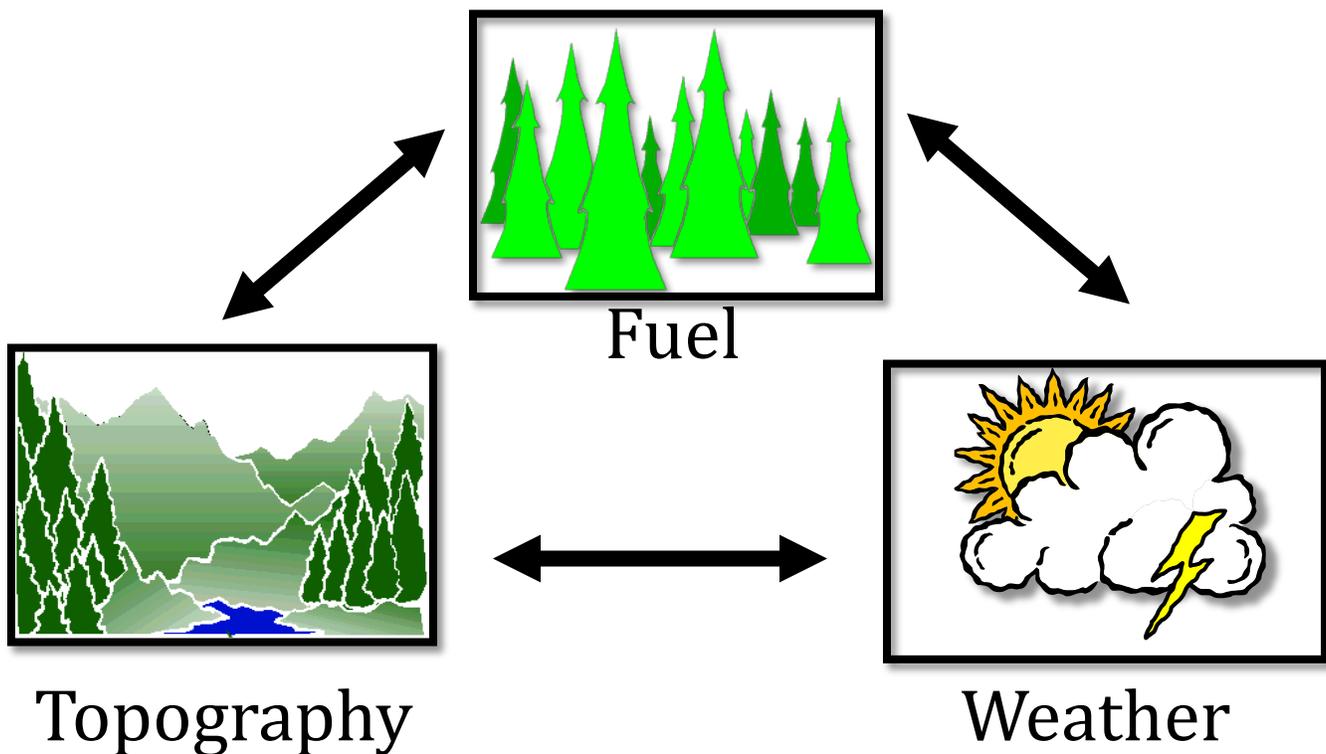
We would like to remind the public that if they do see flames or smoke, please report it. Stay away from the area for public safety.

If you have questions or concerns about smoke and your health, please contact TeleHealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

Did You Know?

The fire environment consists of three key factors that influence how a fire behaves:

- 1) Weather,
- 2) Topography and
- 3) Fuel



This issue focuses on weather.

Weather

Weather can change suddenly and have dramatic effects on the fire environment. If not properly anticipated, an increase in afternoon wind can turn a moderate surface fire into a fast moving crown fire, changing suppression tactics and posing serious safety concerns. On the other hand, a drop in temperature and an increase in relative humidity can reduce a vigorous flame front to a smouldering fire, allowing fire crews the opportunity to safely action the fire.

To make safe and effective decisions, every firefighter must possess a basic understanding of how the following weather factors influence fire behaviour:

- **Temperature**
- **Relative humidity**
- **Precipitation**
- **Wind**

Temperature is affected by the season of the year (i.e., highest temperatures in summer) but more importantly to fire behaviour, by the time of day. Temperatures are normally highest during the afternoon. The daily peak burning period coincides with the peak temperatures of the day.

Relative humidity (RH) is a measure of the amount of moisture in the air. It refers to the actual amount of water vapour present in the air compared to the maximum amount of water vapour that the air could hold at a given temperature.

- The amount of moisture in the air directly affects the moisture content of forest fuels which in turn affects ease of ignition, rate of consumption and amount consumed.
- When relative humidity is high (i.e., the air has a high amount of moisture), forest fuels *absorb* moisture from the air making fuels more resistant to burning.
- When relative humidity is low (i.e., air has a low amount of moisture), forest fuels *release* moisture to the air; the fuels become drier and fires will burn readily.

Fires are “generally” the most active from *mid-morning to sundown* when temperatures during the day are higher and the RH is lower. This time of day is referred to as the “burning period”.

The presence of **precipitation**, in all its various forms (rain, hail, sleet and snow), will result in a decrease in fire behaviour because it:

- a) Wets fuels and increase their moisture content;
- b) Cools a fire; and
- c) Increases the relative humidity in the air.

Generally, a light steady rain over a period of time is preferable to a strong, brief downpour. Precipitation falling over a longer period of time allows the moisture to soak into the fuels.

Wind is the *horizontal movement* of air relative to the surface of the earth. Wind is the most critical weather element affecting fire behaviour, the most variable and the most difficult to predict. *As wind speed increases, fire intensity and rate of spread will increase dramatically.*

Wind influences fire behaviour in the following ways:

- Affects the rate of spread.
- Affects the direction of fire spread and the shape of the fire.
- Bends flames and the fire's convection column bringing them closer to unburned fuels which results in faster preheating of fuels ahead of the main fire.
- Feeds oxygen to the fire, supporting combustion.
- Affects drying rate of forest fuels depending on whether it is moving moist air to or away from fuels.

Contact Numbers and Online Information

For more information about travel restrictions:

- Parry Sound MNRF 705-773-4218.
- Sudbury MNRF 705-564-7963

To request a travel permit: travelpermitsPAR033@ontario.ca

For general information about the fire situation: 705-564-6165

For information about highway closures: 5-1-1

For inquiries regarding Ontario Parks closures and updates: 705-857-1630 x 224



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WEB: ontario.ca/forestfire ontario.ca/incendiedeforet



CALL: Fire Updates 1-705-564-6165