



# FOREST FIRE

News August 8, 2018 – 20:30

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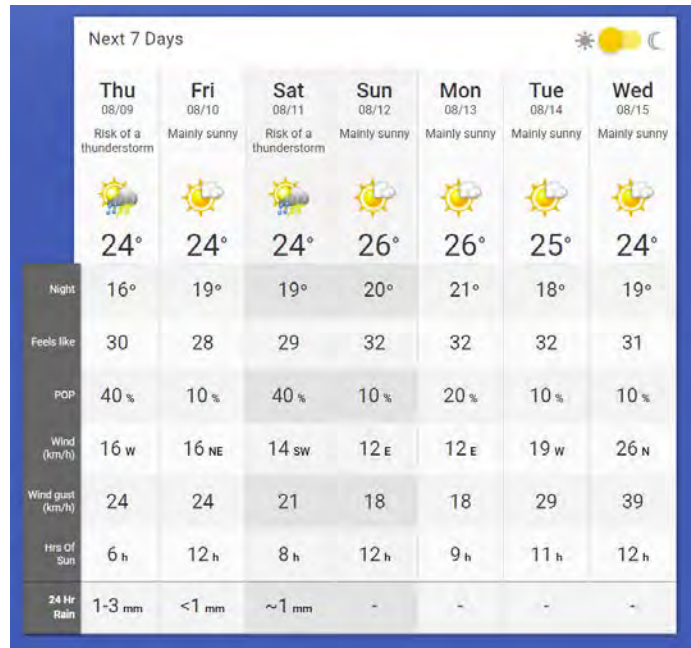
## Parry Sound 33 Fire Update

- The size of the fire remains at 11, 362 hectares. There was no growth today.
- It is important to note that despite the containment that has been achieved and the precipitation received, the fire remains active. There is still potential for high fire behaviour given the very dry fuels in the area.
- Aggressive fire suppression operations are ongoing throughout the entire fire area.
- Crews continue to work towards the interior of the fire, searching for and extinguishing hotspots. Helicopters are supporting ground crews with reconnaissance flights to locate the hotspots.
- Structure protection removal continues where the threat from fire has been eliminated.
- There is a risk of thunderstorms tomorrow with scattered precipitation, clearing in the afternoon as the front passes through. It is expected to dry out as the week progresses.
- There are 247 firefighters and support staff currently working on this incident. That number will continue to fluctuate with the state of the fire, as well as when staff complete their 14 day assignments and more staff become available after days of rest. Despite the fluctuation in staffing numbers, adequate staffing levels will be maintained for fire operations.
- Please note that the delivery of the newsletter will change; tomorrow the newsletter will be delivered during the day, and starting Friday it will be delivered in the morning.

## Parry Sound 33 Resources

- 247 firefighters and support staff
- 8 helicopters
- An incident management team
- Water bomber support as required

## Forecast and Weather Information



A cold front is predicted to move through the area bringing with it a chance of showers and thundershowers. Precipitation could range from trace to 15 mm in heavier thunderstorm cells. Skies will clear in the afternoon and winds will switch from southwest to northwest at 10-20 km/h with gusts up to 30-40 km/h. Temperatures will be in the mid-20s and cool with the passage of the cold front.

## 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](mailto: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?

It's been a busy forest fire season in Ontario! To date, Ontario has had just over 3 times more fires this year than last year at this time and almost twice as many as the 10 year average.

Fires to Date – Current: 988 Hectares burned: 222 949

Fires to Date – Last Year: 396 Hectares burned: 62, 174

Fires to Date – 10 Year Average: 582 Hectares burned: 110 343

The forest fire community from across Canada and the world are partners in the protection of people, property, and forests. So often, different jurisdictions come to the aid of those in need. Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services (AFFES) are leaders in sharing resources when neighbours near and far request assistance.

Previous years Ontario has traveled across Canada, the United States, and in some instances internationally. In 2017 alone Ontario fire personnel provided assistance to British Columbia, Parks Canada in Alberta, Manitoba and aircraft with flight crew to Montana. The opportunity to help others in need always presents learning opportunities for AFFES to grow and improve upon operational practices.

So far in 2018, Ontario has received assistance from the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Parks Canada, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Mexico. The response to our call for assistance has been very generous. It seems that by being a sharing neighbour, we have in return, received support from far and wide. Our appreciation for the forest fire colleges that join us from across Canada, the United States, and as far away as Mexico, is heartfelt and will be remembered by Ontario for many years to come.

## 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](mailto: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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**CALL:** Fire Updates 1-705-564-6165