

Lesser Slave River

Upcoming Council Meetings

AUGUST 14 & AUGUST 27, AT 10:00AM

Register Early. Vote Easily.

To be added to the **Permanent Electors Register**, voters must register through **Elections Alberta's Voterlink** by Friday, **AUGUST 15**. Voters who are not registered by this date will need to complete registration at the voting station before receiving a ballot. Please visit voterlink.ab.ca. Need help? Phone us at 780.427.7191.

Ranch Road Closed in Smith

Motorists are reminded that the east portion of Ranch Road, between Fish Creek Road and Highway 2, is **closed until AUGUST 14**, for a bridge culvert replacement. Detours will be available via Fish Creek Road and Forestview Road.

Upcoming Office Closure for Staff Training

The MD's main administration office in Slave Lake will be closed on Monday, **AUGUST 18** for annual employee training. These full-day sessions help us strengthen our skills and knowledge to better serve our residents. The MD appreciates your understanding and continuous support.

Reminder: For time-sensitive matters outside regular office hours, our **24/7 reception service** is available to connect you with the appropriate teams and resources. Call 780.849.4888 or toll-free at 1.866.449.4888. In the event of a fire, medical, or police emergency, DIAL 9-1-1 immediately.

For non-urgent concerns, you can submit a complaint or service request during regular hours, or use the **"Alert the MD"** form anytime at mdlsr.ca/report.

Wildfire Status Definitions: A Quick Refresher

Wildfires are *regularly assessed* by experts and assigned a status based on the behaviour of the wildfire, and how it's responding to suppression efforts under current and expected conditions.

What "Out of Control" Means

A wildfire is **"Out of Control"** when it is growing or expected to grow. Most wildfires are classified as *Out of Control* when they are first assessed, but can be quickly reclassified if initial attack efforts are successful. An *Out of Control* wildfire may show signs of crown fire (flames burning along the tops of trees) and smoke. It is also possible for many parts

of the wildfire to show low activity or little growth, but the wildfire may still be classified as *Out of Control* if it is not considered contained.

What "Being Held" Means

A wildfire is **"Being Held"** when it is not expected to grow beyond its existing boundaries, given current weather conditions and resources. A wildfire is classified as *Being Held* once it is completely contained, meaning a perimeter has been established around the wildfire. The perimeter could be a fire guard, or combination of guard and natural barriers such as a body of water or rocky terrain.

A wildfire that is *Being Held* may still exhibit activity and smoke, but is considered contained. Occasionally, under extreme winds or unusual conditions, a *Being Held* wildfire may return to *Out of Control*. Generally, once a wildfire is *Being Held*, firefighters reinforce containment lines and work on bringing the wildfire *Under Control*.

What "Under Control" Means

A wildfire is **"Under Control"** when it has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread. A wildfire is classified as *Under Control* once it has been successfully managed and there is no risk that the fire will spread. During this stage, firefighters may still be working to extinguish hot spots, or it may be monitored for any activity.

Wildfires can remain *Under Control* for many months, and may emit smoke during this time. However, this does not indicate that the wildfire is in danger of growing.

Cold temperatures and snow are often the final stage to ensure a wildfire is extinguished. Wildfire staff will evaluate an *Under Control* wildfire to determine if there are any remaining hot spots, or if it can be classified as extinguished.

What "Mutual Aid" Means

A **"Mutual Aid"** wildfire is a wildfire that starts outside of the Forest Protection Area and assistance is being provided by Alberta Wildfire to the lead agency. These wildfires typically start in a municipal district but become large enough that municipal firefighters may require additional resources to help support it.

If a wildfire status has been added to a *Mutual Aid* fire, it will be represented by a coloured circle around the purple flame. A red circle around the purple flame indicates that the *Mutual Aid* wildfire is *Out of Control*. A yellow circle around the purple flame indicates that it is *Being Held*. A green circle indicates that it is *Under Control*.

What "Turned Over" Means

A wildfire is given a status of **"Turned Over"** when responsibility for the extinguishment of the wildfire has been returned to another agency or individual. Before the wildfire is *Turned Over*, Alberta Wildfire ensures the agency or individual is willing and able to completely extinguish the wildfire. The wildfire must be considered *Under Control* before it is turned over.

Visit alberta.ca/wildfire-status to check *current and forecasted* fire danger levels across Alberta's Forest Protection Area.