

# Intelligence and Situational Awareness Unit

## Bulletin

**Event:** Provincial Forest & Prairie Fires of Note

**Location:** Saskatchewan

**Current as of:** May 25, 2023; 10:30 hrs.

ENMME

## INFORMATION

Currently there are 24 active fires:

- 6 Not Contained
- 4 Contained
- 3 Protecting Property
- 11 Ongoing Assessment

\*2 ongoing assessments reflect the deployment of equipment to Alberta and British Columbia

Note: the information is current at the time of writing and subject to change.

Further information is located on the SPSA wildfire interactive map:

<https://gisappl.saskatchewan.ca/Html5Ext/?viewer=wfmpublic>

## Wildfires of Note:

### 23BN-VERMETTE (Southwest of Dillon)

**Current Size:** 65,547.0 ha.

**Resources:** Type 1 Crew Members, Type 2 Crews, Type 3 Crews, Heavy Equipment, Helicopter Support

**Communities<20km:** Dillon, St. George's Hill, Michel Village

**Values in Area:** Highway 925

Crews will continue to work the perimeter, and have begun to go further into the interior of the fire in the northeast. New helicopter pads have been cut and crews will work these spots and cut new pads as needed to secure the eastern perimeter.

## **23LX-SHAW (Between Buffalo Narrows and Ile-A-La Crosse)**

<b>Current Size:</b>	133,113.0 ha.
<b>Resources:</b>	Type 1 Crew Members, Type 2 Crews, Heavy Equipment, Helicopter Support, Air Tanker Support
<b>Communities&lt;20km:</b>	Buffalo Narrows, Ile-A-La Crosse
<b>Values in Area:</b>	Highway 925, Highway 155, Highway 908, SaskPower Infrastructure
<b>Impacts:</b>	Evacuation of Priority 1 and 2 people from Buffalo Narrows and Ile-A-La Crosse

Crews will continue working around the hotspots near dozer guards, securing powerline infrastructure, and also working 100 yards into the perimeter utilizing water trucks and heavy equipment. Values protection units will continue to be serviced as needed.

## **23LA-WISTIGO (Southeast of Pinehouse Lake)**

<b>Current Size:</b>	62,766.0 ha.
<b>Resources:</b>	Type 1 Crew members, Type 2 Crews, Type 3 Crews, Heavy Equipment, Helicopter Support
<b>Values in area:</b>	Highway 165, Highway 910, Besnard Correctional Camp, Besnard Lake Lodge, Commercial Timber.
<b>Impacts:</b>	Besnard Correctional Camp evacuation, Evacuation of Priority 1 and 2 people from Hall Lake, Media advisory Besnard Lake area.

Fire area received precipitation on May 24. Values protection work continues. Highway 910 re-opened on May 24. Dozer guard construction continues on the east side of the fire and crews will work along Highway 910.

## **23LA-SHARP (North of La Ronge)**

<b>Current Size:</b>	9,845.0 ha.
<b>Resources:</b>	Type 1 Crew Members, Type 2 Crews, Helicopter Support, Air Tanker Support
<b>Communities&lt;20km:</b>	Sucker River, Northern Admin District of Wadin Bay
<b>Values in Area:</b>	Highway 102, Sucker River Cultural Camp, McKay Lake Recreation site, Wadin Bay Recreation site.
<b>Impacts:</b>	McKay Lake and Wadin Bay campgrounds are closed.

Values protection work to occur in the Nemebien Lake area continues. Crews will continue working along the fire line. Helicopter support to supplement as required.

## **23DB-KPIR02 (South of Deschambault Lake)**

<b>Current Size:</b>	4,605.4 ha.
<b>Resources:</b>	Type 1 Crew Members, Type 2 Crews, Type 3 Crews, Helicopter Support, Air Tanker Support
<b>Communities&lt;20km:</b>	Deschambault Lake
<b>Values in Area:</b>	Highway 911
<b>Impacts:</b>	Highway 911 intermittent closure, Deschambault Lake evacuation.

Crews made good progress fire line construction on the south end of the fire May 24<sup>th</sup>, supported by helicopter bucketing and water bombers late in the day. Very dry fuels in the area. A dozer guard was constructed around the community landfill May 24<sup>th</sup>. The focus May 25<sup>th</sup> will be along the southern edge of the fire with the forecasted north winds.

## **Media Advisory – Churchill River Area**

May 24, 2023

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is advising travellers, boaters and paddlers to avoid the areas in and around the 23LX-Smith Fire and the 23LA-McCrae Fire until further notice. This includes highways, rivers and lakes in those areas.

The Smith Fire is located north of the Churchill River and is producing large amounts of smoke with poor visibility around the area. The McCrae Fire is a large and fast-moving fire located directly east of the Smith Fire.

The travel advisories for the area of Montreal River near the Meyak Fire and Besnard Lake near the Wistigo Fire remain in effect.

The location and status of all wildfires in Saskatchewan can be found on the SPSA Active Emergencies map located at [saskpublicsafety.ca](http://saskpublicsafety.ca).

For more information, contact: [media.spsa@gov.sk.ca](mailto:media.spsa@gov.sk.ca)

## **Media Advisory – Besnard Lake Area:**

May 16, 2023

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is advising individuals to avoid the area in and near Besnard Lake.

The SPSA is asking residents to avoid the area as a fast-moving fire is burning with extreme fire intensity. With a single access route in and out of the area, there is an increased threat of entrapment.

The locations and status of the fire, called 23LA – WISTIGO Fire, can be found on the SPSA Active Emergencies map located at [saskpublicsafety.ca](http://saskpublicsafety.ca).

For more information, contact: [media.spsa@gov.sk.ca](mailto:media.spsa@gov.sk.ca)

## **Media Advisory – Montreal River Area:**

May 15, 2023

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is advising individuals to avoid the area on and near the Montreal River, north of Hwy #2 and JCT 165 due to a wildfire located four kilometers north of the junction until further notice.

The SPSA is asking canoeists to not use this section of the Montreal River as it would pull personnel and resources from the wildfire response if they were to become in need of rescue.

The location and status of the fire, called 23W – Meyak Fire, can be found on the SPSA Active Emergencies map located at [saskpublicsafety.ca](http://saskpublicsafety.ca).