

Wildland Fire – May 12th, 2021

Update #13

The RM of Piney remains under a State of Local Emergency and Council has issued a complete burn ban. The wildland fire remains uncontained and active. Current weather conditions are not favourable and there is little moisture in the forecast. Winds are predicted to come from the south and the fine fuel index is at extreme. To date, no structures have been lost to the wildland fire; crews continue to focus on value protection on those properties greatest at risk.

The burn area has increased by approximately 100 hectares and currently is estimated near 2,000 hectares in size. This fire will not be easily extinguished, given the weather forecast, the volume of material left to burn and the massive size of the burn area. Manitoba Conservation and Climate and the RM of Piney fire service will be working this fire for a number of days to come and there is still a great deal of work to accomplish. Provincially, Manitoba fire crews are now dealing with new wildland fires within the province. The RM strongly urges the public to take all precautions in preventing new wildland fires.

Water bombers are preparing to action the fire from the air when required and additional resources have arrived from the Province of Ontario. Helicopters will be used to bucket water over the fire as needed, move personnel and supplies to the fire line. Heavy equipment is on standby. Ground crews will continue to attack active hot spots, aggressively fight fire when present and monitor conditions north of the Sandilands Main Market Road. Municipal fire crews continue to assist provincial personnel as resources are needed and preplanning is underway should the fire change direction.

The Sandilands Main Market Road remains closed and will likely remain closed for the next few days, as crews continue to utilize this road for access to the burn area.

A complete burn ban for the RM of Piney is now in place. No burning of any solid fuel is permitted; this includes campfires, burn barrels and outdoor stoves. Only propane barbeques and propane fire pits are permitted.

The RM of Piney will utilize our E-Newsletter to provide regular updates. Go to the RM of Piney website at www.rmofpiney.mb.ca to subscribe to the E-Newsletter. We encourage those not using Facebook to subscribe to our E-Newsletter. The RM also regularly updates the municipal information line at 204-437-2845.

The Municipality remains confident in the efforts completed to protect lives and private property. Should the situation change, and there is the need to notify residents, the RM shall start actively notifying those affected by the change in events. The communities of Sandilands, Woodridge and St. Labre are not at risk. Travel to properties in these communities is permitted.

The RM will provide another update May 12th, 2021 at 4:00 pm, unless there is a change in the risk to the public.