Beat: News

LONG LAKE WILDFIRES COMPLEX

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USPA NEWS - The Long Lake wildfires complex remains uncontrolled and is still estimated at 8,465 hectares. There are no new reports of damage. Crews are working diligently while favourable weather conditions persist, endeavouring to establish a comprehensive line of fire breaks around the entire perimeter of the fire zone.

Firefighters with the Department of Natural Resources are receiving a reprieve. 61 Ontario, 40 Quebec, and 61 local firefighters are working together, utilizing about 50 pieces of heavy machinery, to combat the fire.

The southern end of the fire is the most active area, and fire intensity has intensified with wind today. Helicopters are dropping water on this area to allow ground crews to safely enter and continue consolidating the perimeter while advancing inward on the fire.

Manitoba's CL415 planes are being released, they are replaced by 2 black hawk helicopters which are more effective for current needs. Two other helicopters were released, so the total is still 10 working on the fire. The 4 Northwest Territories 802 planes with bird dogs still in use.

Drone Acticity Is Strictly Prohibited:
Do not operate drones in a wildfire area. It is illegal. It can interfere with firefighting efforts. Aircraft are using a very large airspace around the Long Lake wildfires complex. It is not safe to use a drone anywhere in the broader area. The fine is $25,000 under the Forests Act, there could be fines under federal legislation as well.

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