



Township of Ignace
P.O. Box 248, 34 Hwy 17 West
Ignace, Ontario P0T 1T0
Phone: 807-934-2202 Fax: 807-934-2864
Website: Ignace.ca

PUBLIC UPDATE Re: Forest fire southwest of Ignace

ISSUED THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026 @ 11:30 a.m.

- There are two forest fires still burning southwest of Ignace: Dryden 28 on the south side of Nora Lake and Dryden 36 on the north side of Nora Lake. **The Dryden 36 fire remains approximately 18 km away from town at its closest point.** It has not expanded since being mapped yesterday evening.
- MNR is continuing an aggressive response by dedicated firefighters, with three helicopters and two heavy water bombers. Expect frequent air traffic over Ignace today.
- As of Wednesday, the Dryden 36 fire is approximately 1762 ha and is mostly confined by water bodies. It has not grown overnight, and firefighters are controlling the perimeter. Exposed mineral soil is helping to create a fire break.
- Emergency equipment is being deployed to the site. MNR has eight pieces of heavy equipment, two crews, and a HydroOne crew heading out to repair transmission lines. Alberta firefighters will be arriving Friday, and MNR expects approximately 55 people in total on the ground by Friday afternoon for active fire suppression.
- **THE PUBLIC IS REMINDED TO STAY OFF BACK ROADS AND STAY AWAY FROM THE FIRE!** Water bombers will not drop water if any people or vehicles are visible from the sky. Some roads may be officially closed by MNR and the OPP.
- Winds are from the southeast today, blowing smoke from this fire toward Borup's Corners. Ignace is smoky from the fire south of Upsala. **To help with air quality in your home, stay inside, keep windows closed, run air filters if you have them, and contact Mary Berglund Health Centre if you require filtration masks to help with breathing.**
- We are expecting favourable weather conditions for the next few days, with a 40% chance of rain or thunderstorms tonight and the chance of more precipitation Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.
- The smaller Dryden 37 fire east of Ignace on the north side of Hwy. 17 toward Raven Lake appears extinguished as of last night. One fire crew was on site this morning for a final patrol, and it may be called out today.



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- The Emergency Response Group will meet again Friday at 10:00 a.m. Watch for updates.
- Mayor Baigrie declared a **FIRE BAN IN IGNACE** on Monday, July 13 at 9:42 p.m.
- **THERE IS NO IMMINENT THREAT OF EVACUATION, but residents are reminded to be prepared** with wallet, ID, important documents, medications, etc. packed and ready to go in case of emergency.
- In case evacuation is required, the primary route would be west to Dryden, as there is another forest fire and dense smoke near Upsala.
- **DO NOT CALL 911** for updates about the fire. **Watch the Township Facebook page and website or call Ontario 211.**
- **NEW!** White Otter Castle is not threatened by the fire at this time and is approximately 7.55 km southwest of the southern edge of the burn, as the crow flies. It is surrounded by water bodies that help provide a fire barrier.

Register for the Emergency Transportation list

- In the event of an evacuation in the future, the Township of Ignace has made arrangements for bus transportation for people in need.
- **NEW!** The Township is also making arrangements for the safe transportation of pets, and Northern Critters in Need has approximately 60 crates available.
- **If you do not have transportation, please call the Township office at (807) 934-2202 or email info@ignace.ca to register on the list, so we can be prepared in case evacuation is needed in the future.** Please include the names of each member of your household requiring bus transportation, along with your **street address** and telephone number. Please let us know if any member of your household is a senior citizen, an infant, has mobility concerns, or has breathing issues. **Please also let us know about your pets.**
- **If you require medical assistance that would affect your emergency transportation, please contact the Mary Berglund Health Centre at (807) 934-2251 to discuss your condition.** In the event of an evacuation, the health centre will coordinate emergency medical transportation with Northwest EMS.