



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 FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026 @ 11:50 a.m.

**MNR reassures the public that Ignace is NOT at risk of evacuation.
Updates will now be issued only if the situation changes.**

- 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 on Wednesday and has natural water boundaries and pinch points.
- There has been some confusion online because the MNR *District* is called “Thunder Bay – Ignace,” but **the town of Ignace is NOT being evacuated.** Ignace is not directly affected or at risk from the Fort Frances 14 fire south of Upsala and Lac De Mille Lacs. See official MNR maps and announcements online for the most current information—do not rely on screenshots shared on Facebook. *(Also, if sharing information on Facebook, please share the POST, not a screenshot. Posts can be updated or removed if they no longer apply, but outdated screenshots create confusion and spread misinformation.)*
- **MNR reassures the public that Ignace is NOT at risk of evacuation and is confident that the Dryden 36 fire will not spread closer to town.** If Ignace needed to evacuate, the fire department would drive up and down the streets with sirens and loudspeakers to inform residents to register at a command centre, to help keep track of people before they leave town.
- **The threat of forest fire is now reduced in the Ignace area.** The Emergency Response Group will meet again Monday at 10:00 a.m. unless the situation changes over the weekend. Watch the official Township of Ignace Facebook page for updates, but assume no news is good news.

Fire Site Update

- The Dryden 36 fire is approximately 1762 ha and is mostly confined by water bodies. It has not grown in the past two days, and firefighters are controlling the perimeter. Exposed mineral soil is helping to create a fire break.
- The fire site received about 3 mm of rain overnight. A light wind is blowing from the southwest, but fire crews have used heavy equipment to create a fire break to cap the spread at the north perimeter, above Upper Moosehide Lake. Work will continue on the north side of Lower Moosehide Lake.
- MNR is continuing an aggressive response by dedicated firefighters, with three helicopters and two heavy water bombers. Expect frequent air traffic to continue over Ignace this weekend.
- MNR has 12 pieces of heavy equipment on site, and HydroOne has a crew of about 30 people repairing power lines. About 20 Alberta firefighters will be arriving Friday afternoon, and MNR expects approximately 100 people in total on the ground by Saturday 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.
- 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 to continue, with a 40% chance of rain or thunderstorms tonight and more precipitation in the forecast for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week.
- White Otter Castle is not threatened by the fire at this time and is approximately 7.5 km southwest of the southern edge of the burn.
- The smaller Dryden 37 fire east of Ignace on the north side of Hwy. 17 toward Raven Lake appears extinguished.



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Fire Ban & Emergency Preparedness

- Mayor Baigrie declared a **FIRE BAN IN IGNACE** on Monday, July 13 at 9:42 p.m. Do not light any campfires or bonfires until further notice.
- **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.
- **DO NOT CALL 911** for updates about the fire. **Watch the Township Facebook page and website or call Ontario 211.**

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.
- 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.