



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 MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026 @ 11:40 a.m.

MNR reassures the public that Ignace is no longer at risk of evacuation from the Dryden 36 fire.

The emergency group will no longer meet daily, as the situation has calmed. Updates will be issued if the situation changes.

- **Good news!** MNR reports that although surface flames may no longer be visible, the Dryden 36 fire southwest of Ignace may still be smouldering, and fire crews will remain on site for the next couple of weeks to keep pumping water, monitor the area for hot spots, and prevent restarts.
- **The fire zone remains approximately 18 km away from town at its closest point.** It has not expanded since being mapped last Wednesday and has natural water boundaries and pinch points.
- **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.**
- **The threat of forest fire is now reduced to Moderate in the Ignace area.** The Emergency Response Group will not meet again unless the situation changes. Watch the official Township of Ignace Facebook page for updates.
- 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, nor from the Dryden 34 and 35 fires up near Armstrong.
- 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 Posts can be updated or removed if they no longer apply, but outdated screenshots create confusion and spread misinformation.)*



Fire Site Update

- The map of the Dryden 36 fire was updated over the weekend and the size was reported on the Ontario Forest Fire Info Map online as 1855 ha, mostly confined by water bodies. Several small lakes seem to be included in the revised area calculation, but the perimeter has not grown, and firefighters are controlling the spread. Exposed mineral soil is helping to create a fire break.
- The fire site received about 4 mm of rain overnight. The wind is blowing from the southwest and may gust to 60 km/h through the day, 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 a response with dedicated firefighters and two helicopters.
- MNR has 12 pieces of heavy equipment on site, and HydroOne repaired power lines over the weekend. About 20 Alberta firefighters arrived Friday afternoon, and MNR expects active fire suppression to continue for the next couple of weeks, until the fire is officially declared out.
- **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.
- We are expecting favourable weather conditions to continue, with a 60% chance of rain or thunderstorms today and more precipitation in the forecast every day this week.
- Ignace may be 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.
- 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.