



In this Issue:

High Risk Activities

At Coastal

Weather

It's Not Over Yet!

Generally speaking, the fire season in the Coastal Fire Centre consists of a rousing six weeks of activity from mid-July until the end of August, as the weather heats up and our forests dry out.

This year, however, the wildfire season started a full month earlier than normal. According to Environment Canada projections, it may continue well into September.

So how does the BC Wildfire Service, as an organization, keep up the required energy levels for this type of work, maintain constant staffing levels and encourage the public to continue co-operating with fire prevention measures for such an extended period?

Our firefighting crews are well-trained and physically fit. They're also used to hard work, since their individual fire seasons may be extended due to external deployments. In part, crew staffing levels are maintained by making sure that our firefighters use safe work practices to avoid injury.

Staffing levels in the Coastal Fire Centre are augmented by "a little help from our friends", through the government's Temporary Emergency Assignment

Management System (TEAMS) program. It allows the fire centres to bring in government staff from other areas to help out when needed.

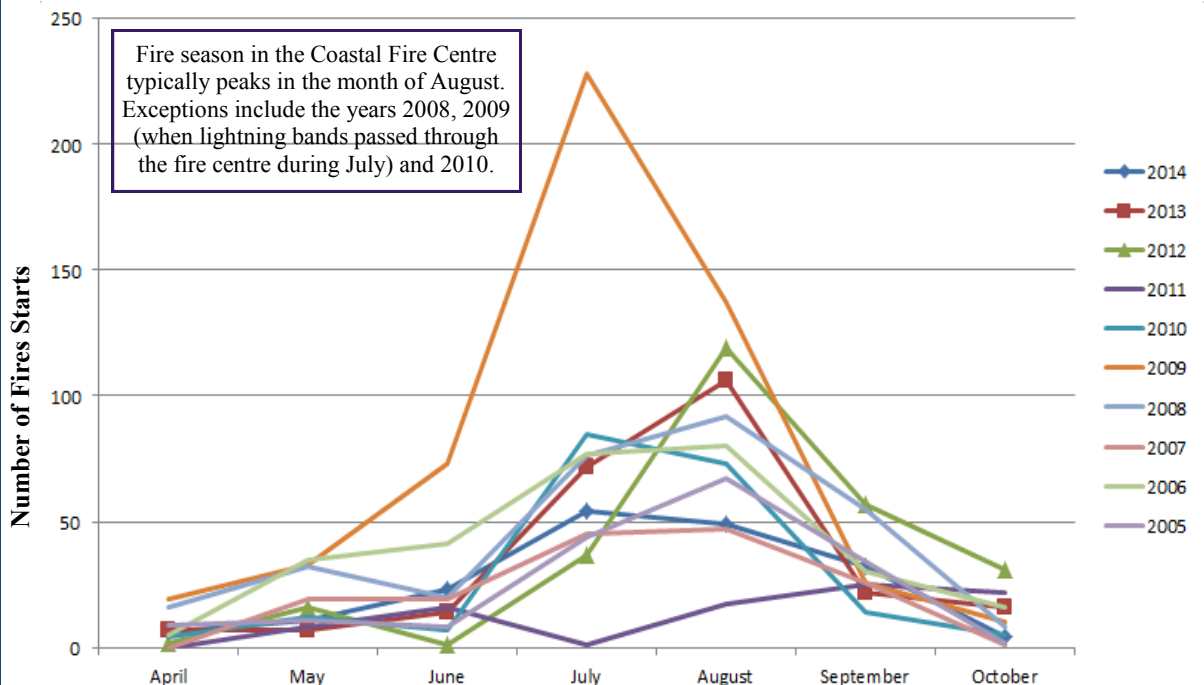
So the real question is: are the public able and willing to help and support us for the long haul? How do we as an organization help the public avoid 'Wildfire Fatigue' and continue to report fires, abide by the prohibitions, and support our crews in the field, understanding that we have not yet reached the peak of our fire season?

We are committed to maintaining an open and responsive dialogue with the public. They can visit our Facebook page (BCForestFireInfo) at any time to ask a question. We will do our best to answer quickly and provide the information that you need.

People can also send an email to the Coastal Fire Centre at FORHPRP.INFOCO@gov.bc.ca

We consider the people who live and work in this area to be part of our team. Their ongoing assistance and understanding is invaluable in the face of wildfire threats. Without their help, it would be a very long summer.

Graph of Peak in Coastal Fire Season



To Report a Wildfire:
1-800-663-5555
Or Cell *5555

To Report a Wildfire: 1-800-663-5555 Or Cell *5555

To Date in Coastal

Fires to Date

Person Caused **108**

Lighting Caused **32**

Total Number of Fires **140**

Fire Danger Rating as of **July 31**



Current Prohibitions (within WMB jurisdictional area)

Campfire (All Coastal with the exception of the North Island-Central Coast Forest District, Haida Gwaii and the Fog Zone)
 Category 2 Open Fire (All Coastal)
 Category 3 Open Fire (All Coastal)

High Risk Activities

Regardless of whether you're an industry professional who works regularly in the forest or a member of the public who enjoys recreational activities in B.C.'s beautiful backcountry, you are responsible for what you do and the equipment you choose to use.

If industry personnel or members of the public plan to do any land clearing within 300 metres of grasslands or a forest, they must take measures to prevent a wildfire starting or spreading.

This also applies to the use of spark-producing machinery such as welders, mowers, chainsaws, grinders, power tools or any equipment that could strike a rock and create a spark.

To help mitigate wildfire risks, people doing this sort of work may be required to have fire suppression systems and equipment available onsite, maintain a fire watch after operations are completed and comply with "shutdown" regulations.

Shutdown times apply to areas where the fire danger rating has been "extreme" for more than three consecutive days. People engaged in high-risk activities should pay particular attention to the current

Fire Danger Class rating in their part of the Coastal Fire Centre, available online at: <http://bcwildfire.ca/hprScripts/DgrCls/index.asp?Region=2>

They must also use the representative weather station data for the area where they're operating and adhere to shutdown formulas, according to restrictions placed on High-Risk Activities. Details are available online at:

http://bcwildfire.ca/Industry_Stakeholders/industry/HighRiskActivities.htm

Anyone who sees or causes a wildfire has an obligation to report it and take action with available resources to extinguish it, if practical. Any high-risk activities must be conducted in accordance with the *Wildfire Act* and *Wildfire Regulation*.

People should also make sure that their motorized off-road vehicles are equipped with spark arrestors, since all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorcycles may also pose a wildfire risk.

Please ensure that you understand your legal obligations under the *Wildfire Act* and *Wildfire Regulation* whenever you use equipment or take part in recreational activities in rural or wilderness areas.

At Coastal

The three large fires within Coastal that continue to be 'of note' are: Cougar Creek and the two fires of the Boulder Complex—Elaho and Boulder Creek. Crews continue to work hard on these fires. For more information go to: www.bcwildfire.ca.

The fire near Cowichan Lake, Skutz Falls fire, is now 50% contained. It is 16 hectares in size and currently has 61 personnel on the fire, as well as 1 helicopter, and additional personnel and equipment supplied by industry. This fire is not threatening homes and there have been no road closures.

Weather

SYNOPSIS: A weak outflow pattern and a dominant flat upper ridge gives most areas a head-start to the day's heating for another hot and very dry day while winds in most areas remain dominated by local upslope/upvalley conditions. A weakening Pacific frontal system maintains occasional rain in Haida Gwaii this morning, spreading cloud over the Mid Coast on Saturday as the feature pushes slowly southward. Most areas should see an improvement in overnight recoveries tonight as a weak surface trough drifts onshore tonight. This switch to a prevailing onshore pattern should be felt throughout the more coastally-affected areas of each zone on Saturday in the form of a slight decrease in afternoon temperatures and a slight increase in afternoon humidities while interior sections of each zone see little to no change from today's hot & dry conditions.

OUTLOOK: A flat upper ridge remains in control on Sunday for a near repeat of Saturday's conditions (hot, sunny & dry in most areas), except with a slightly greater portion of each zone experiencing a slight trend towards less-hot temperatures and gradually higher humidities within a weak but steady inflow pattern. Temperatures reach the mid-thirties in the hottest and driest sections of southern two-thirds of the region on Sunday while afternoon humidities inland continue to dip into the teens.

Number of Fires by Year

