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If you spot a forest fire call: 1-800-663-5555 Or *5555 on your cellular.



Modified Response

Land managers and stakeholders develop fire management plans with the BC Forest Service that specify how we should respond to wildfires if they occur within their land management zone. In some cases, the land management or fire management plan in an area will specify that wildfire responses must be respectful of the environment and landscape in order to preserve the natural habitat and meet land management objectives. If a situation occurs where it becomes necessary to use heavy equipment or machine-constructed fireguards in order to suppress the fire, it is a normal follow-up to ensure that land is rehabilitated back to its natural conditions.

The BC Forest Service will respond to the wildfires in such areas in a manner that does not disturb the natural habitat. This type of fire suppression strategy is called a “Modified

Response” and it may avoid the use of heavy machinery and the construction of roads which may put the natural setting at risk. Fire is a natural component of the ecosystem and has regenerative properties for affected terrain.

The BC Forest Service seeks to protect BC’s forests from unwanted wildfires while protecting the public from the possibility of wildfires spreading into interface areas. The BC Forest Service also respects the objectives of land managers. If fire is wanted in a wilderness area, it will remain under our careful observation to ensure that it does not spread beyond the points specified by the land manager. Land managers and stakeholders determine specific values that, if threatened, will trigger an altered response to the fire. These are Trigger Points.

Renewal

Fire is a normal, natural process. Fire is nature’s way of cleansing and renewing the forest. It is often beneficial and necessary for a healthy forest and for the diversity of plant and animal life. Through evolution and exposure, plants and animals have adapted to fire and many depend on it.

The Western Larch, Douglas fir and Ponderosa Pine have developed bark so thick that it insulates living tissue, protecting them from destruction by low intensity fires. Fires naturally occur in these stands every five to 20 years, keeping the forest floor relatively clean.

Some trees, including Jack Pine, Lodgepole Pine and Black Spruce, depend on fire for their reproduction. Their cone scales are held together by resinous material, which melts in a fire and allows the cone to spread its seed. When Aspen trees burn, they produce new sucker shoots from underground buds.

Fires often create excellent conditions for new forest growth by releasing nutrients locked in logs and other organic material.



Wolf River Fire: July 23, 2009

This fire has been in Modified Response and is being monitored by the Wildfire Management Branch, in consultation with BC Parks. This fire has not approached any of the trigger points established by the land managers and the BC Wildfire Management Branch.

To Date in Coastal

Fires to Date

Person Caused **165**

Lighting Caused **341**

Total Number of Fires Actioned **509**

Hectares burnt **6887**

Number of Incidents Responded To this year **1562**

Fire Danger Rating



High

Be Safe!

Helicopters

Helicopters can generally be categorized by four classes based on the amount of weight they can carry: light, intermediate, medium, and heavy.

Type 1 helicopters: Light helicopters carry 1-4 passengers. They are typically used for GPS mapping, infrared scanning, acting as a rotary-wing bird-dog, and observation by IC or fireline crews. Models used frequently by the BCFS include the Bell 206B and the Hughes 500.

Type 2 helicopters: Intermediate helicopters are a general purpose aircraft capable of carrying 5-8 passengers or bucketing 500L of water or retardant on average. Intermediate helicopters are typically used for crew transport and for support actions including bucketing. Models used frequently by the BCFS include the Bell 206 Longranger series, the Bell 407 and the A Star 350 series.

Type 3 helicopters: Medium helicopters carry 9-14 passengers and can be configured with tanks or buckets holding 1400 litres of water or retardant. Medium helicopters are primarily used for crew transport and bucketing support activities for the fireline. Medium helicopters may work using long-term retardants to help hold a line or they may suppress hot spots. Models used frequently by the BCFS include the Bell 205 and the Bell 212.

Type 4 helicopters: Heavy helicopters carry 15

buckets holding up to 9,000 litres of water or retardant. Heavy helicopters are primarily used for bucket support activities and will work using long-term retardants to help hold a line or they may suppress hot spots within and outside the fire. Models used frequently by the BCFS include the Bell 214B, the Sikorsky 61 and the Sikorsky 64 Skycrane. The Skycrane, specifically, can bucket or tank 7500L.

Pilots working for the BCFS are generally limited to 8 flight hours per day and can work a maximum of 14 duty hours under Transport Canada legislation.



Today at Coastal

The following fires have continued to be of interest to the public:

Antler Lake, V81061 (Gold River):
Status: 90% contained; 182 hectares in size.
Resources: 7 firefighters, one helicopter and heavy equipment on site.

Wolf River, V80850 (Strathcona Park)
Status: 10% contained; 550 hectares in size.
This fire is creating a lot of smoke.
This fire is in Modified Response.

Copper Mountain, V30937 (Pemberton Meadows)
Status: 65% contained; 838.4 hectares in size.
Resources: shared with Camel Back East fire
Trail Closure: Tenquille Lake area.

Nuxhalk Mountain Fire in Bella Coola is currently in Mop-up and is no longer considered a 'Fire of Note'.

Weather Forecast

SYNOPSIS.. Yesterday's strong upper ridge still over Coastal zones but its moving east and allowing a cooler upper flow to take over. So while it will be sunny and warm today the temperatures fall off a few degrees. Also seeing a weak jet stream offshore moving into the Mid-coast and North Island zones and this flow will generate a thundershower possibility later today and overnight. Tonight an onshore push dumps extensive marine clouds into all zones including the eastern Fraser and Pemberton areas. Broad cooler upper trough along the coast tomorrow with extensive cloud bands but little or no rainfall activity.

OUTLOOK.. So called progressive pattern continues for the weekend with a new but short lived ridge moving in for Sunday Monday bringing sunny weather.

LONG TERM TREND.. A trough reaches the coast around Tuesday and appears to have more moisture in it so that by late next week a major rainfall is expected over the South Coast.