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Reporting a Fire

Reporting a fire is a serious responsibility and as such, it is good to know what kind of information you may be asked. First of all, a member of the general public will be asked for name and a phone number, where you can be reached, a general location of where the fire is, either an approximate location or if the caller is able a more specific location with directions and any other comments. Second, do you know what is burning? Is it trees, brush, grass, slash or other? Can you see smoke and if so, what colour is it – white, grey, black, brown, blue or you don't know? Do you know approximately how big the fire is? Is anyone fighting the fire? Is the fire spreading? And is it close to any values (ie. structures, roads, or infrastructure)? Providing information calmly, with as much detail as possible, is important.

Those who work in the forestry sector, or have been trained in Wildfire Management will be asked a more intensive series of questions including: specifics on size, fire rank, fuels, wind speed and direction, slope position, angle of slope, road access, availability of water, suspected fire cause, and action taken or recommended. This information and details on the callers qualifications can speed up the process and make sure that appropriate action is taken as quickly as possible.

Regardless of who provides the information it is important for all British Columbians to take action when they spot a forest fire and call:

1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on your cellular.

Retardants

Water-based retardants are most commonly used because of their long-lasting effect on fires. Retardants prematurely release the gaseous fuels within logs and debris. Fuels are unable to burn in areas where retardant has been dropped.

Iron oxide (rust) is added to retardant to give it a highly visible red colour, which enables the air attack personnel and ground crews to see where the retardant has been dropped.

The ingredients in retardants don't evaporate. Retardants are also effective when they are dry, making them work well in fighting high intensity fires that require distant and indirect action.

In these situations, long-lasting retardant mixtures can be spread over areas ahead of the advancing fire. Retardants can maintain a break between multiple fires burning in the same area, allowing ground crews to fight fires with maximum efficiency.

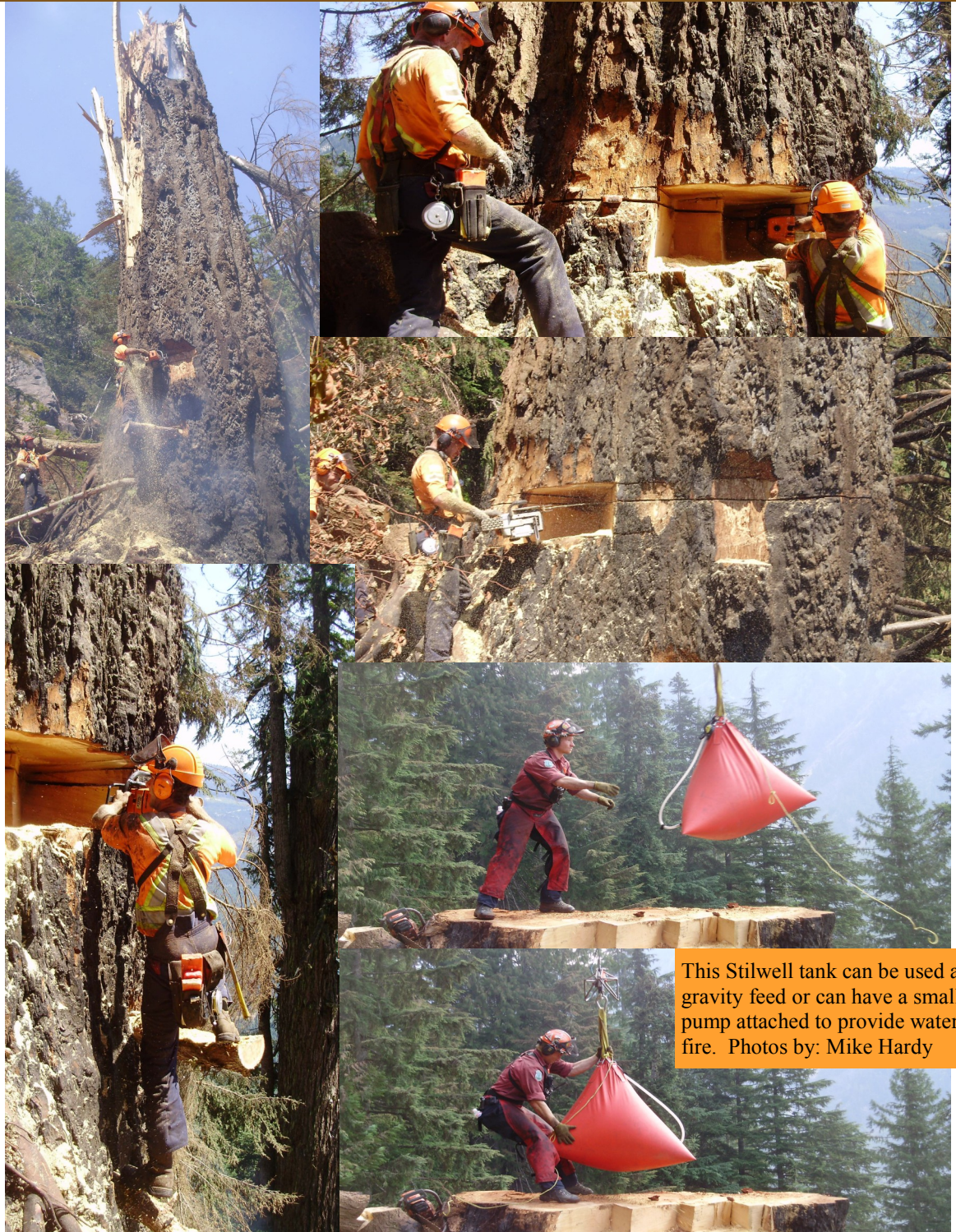


Haig Base
Picture taken by Lee Canty

See detailed weather forecast—page 2



Dangerous Tree Falling of a Snag Fire was caused by Lightning



This Stilwell tank can be used as a gravity feed or can have a small pump attached to provide water at a fire. Photos by: Mike Hardy



To Date in Coastal

Fires to Date

Person Caused **179**

Lightning Caused **335**

Total Number of Fires Actioned **517**

Hectares burnt **6913**

Number of Incidents Responded To this year **1689**

Fire Danger Rating



High

Be Safe!

Water and Foam

- Fire retardants—foams and water can be used to slow a fire. They are not used to put out fires, but rather to cool them and slow their progress.
- Water soluble retardants are most commonly used in fire suppression because of their long-lasting effect on fires. They contain ammonium salts which affect the burning process of forest fuels. This reaction releases a water and carbon dioxide combination that cools and suffocates the fire.
- Water is a suppressant used to slow the growth of wildfires. Water is applied by ground crews using water bags, tanks, pumps and hoses, or by helicopters equipped with buckets or belly

tanks. In British Columbia, aerial water bombers are normally used in coastal areas. Water availability and loading conditions may limit their use in many interior areas. From time to time as deemed appropriate water scooping aircraft are brought in from other provinces under mutual aid agreements and may be deployed any where in the province.

- Foam is a suppressant that is similar to dish soap and is applied to fires to slow their growth. Fire control foam is created by mechanically aerating a water-diluted concentrate, injecting the concentrate into ground or air-borne water tanks, or by simply dropping the mixture from an air tanker or helicopter.

Today at Coastal

Copper Mountain, V30937

Location: Copper Mountain, Pemberton Meadows southwest of Tenquille Creek

Status: 100% contained; 838.4 ha.

Resources: 0 firefighters; Fire is being patrolled to ensure containment is secure.

Objectives: Mop up hotspots on perimeter if identified, and patrol.

Bremner Creek, V11641

Location: west side of Harrison Lake

Status: 72.0 hectares; 40% contained; cause under investigation but suspect it was caused by a vehicle fire.

Resources: 45 fire fighters, 4 helicopters bucketing.

Objectives: Direct attack on south perimeter. Bucket support for west perimeter. Maintain north perimeter with bucket support. Suppress spots on east flank where safe.

Uztilus, V11183

Location: east of Boston Bar

Status: 100% containment; 700 ha. 20 hotspots found on August 31st morning scan.

Resources: 15 firefighters, 2 support, 1 helicopter for scanning.

Objectives: Protecting BC Hydro power lines. Direct attack on fire perimeter. Ensure all hot spots are extinguished. Continue direct attack in inaccessible areas working towards 100% mop-up.

Weather Forecast

SYNOPSIS: Late summer pattern this morning with a weak upper ridge over central BC bringing dry warm weather to the interior but also allowing a light onshore flow with extensive marine cloud layers along the outer coasts. A large but also weak low centre now far offshore in the central Gulf of Alaska is drifting slowly south and as it moves the high level winds over southern BC are turning more and more to the south which will promote afternoon convective development starting today along eastern sections of the interior zones and continuing more widespread tomorrow.

OUTLOOK: Upper low starts to drift to the coast by Wednesday afternoon and as it moves in Coastal starts to see large cloud layers invading and at the same time the coastal pressure gradient increases and it turns windy. By Thursday a sharp upper trough lies along the coast and some rain is likely, winds are picking up over almost all areas and it is much cooler. Friday a second low centre and associated cold front reaches the coast bringing rain and winds.

LONG TERM TREND: Westerly flow brings days of showers and cool followed by days of sun and warmer but windy weather next two weeks.