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Work Safety

The B.C. Forest Service prides itself on its “safe work” culture. We are very proud of what we accomplish from having physically fit, highly motivated, well trained and safety-oriented fire fighters.

We strongly believe that no fire is worth any fire fighter's life, or the life of anyone else.

The number one priority of the Wildfire Management Branch is safety, both of our employees and of the public we help to protect. It is essential to understand that when certain conditions exist, wildfires can only be put out through proper fuel management, appropriate fire behavior techniques and with the cooperation of Mother Nature. In these instances, we cannot and do not “fight” wildfires, we work towards managing them.

The Forest Service relies on the following

safe work principles in order to ensure the safety of personnel on the fireline:

- * Proper supervision
- * Awareness of potential hazards
- * Comprehensive Training for fire line staff
- * Continuous monitoring of fire weather and behaviour
- * Personal Protective Equipment (Nomex fire resistant clothing, hard hat with hearing protection, goggles, gloves, first aid kit)
- * Maintenance of fitness levels (completion of fitness test – fire fighters re-tested throughout the season and at the beginning of each new season)
- * Promotion of safe work practices and attitude, conducting regular safety meetings, addressing safety issues and concerns

Training

All personnel employed by the B.C. Forest Service meet or exceed national CIFFC fire fighting standards in their training.

Before being offered employment, crew members must pass a physical fitness test which includes a pack test and pump and hose test component.

Crew members are fully trained and certified. This course includes components in the learning fundamentals of fire fighting, fireline safety, fire weather and behaviour, communications, wilderness survival, pumps, chainsaws, helicopter safety, vehicle safety, use of heavy equipment, etc.

New recruits are required to attend a 7-day boot camp at the beginning of each fire season where they must complete all

Fighting fire is a hazardous occupation. The first priority of the B.C. Forest Service is to ensure the safety of personnel on the fireline. The first responsibility of all fire fighters is to take every precaution to prevent injury to themselves and others.

classroom and field requirements, including a pre-employment fitness test and passing a final exam. If recruits fail to complete either of these components, they will not be offered employment. Students must achieve a minimum of 70% on the final exam to pass.

The Forest Service offers extensive training courses in all aspects of fire suppression (for example: fire weather and behaviour, helicopters, danger tree assessment, falling and bucking, extreme slope assistance, etc.).



Coastal Fire Centre

wildfire News

To Date
in
Coastal

Fires to Date

Person
Caused 183

Lightning
Caused 336

Total
Number
of Fires
Actioned 520

Hectares
burnt 7136

Number of
Incidents
Responded
To this year 1752

Fire Danger
Rating



Moderate

Be Safe!

To report a
Wildfire call:
1-800-663-5555
Or
*5555 on
your cellular

Public Safety

Each year there is an average of 2,000 forest fires in British Columbia. Although most are far from populated areas, some can threaten homes, summer cottages and cabins.

Forest home-site developments often lack building restrictions, provisions for fire protection or roads suitable for the movement of heavy fire-fighting equipment. Therefore, residents in rural or forested areas play a key role in wildfire protection. Residents are responsible for protecting their buildings and property.

The FireSmart program is a national initiative focused on reducing the risk of wildfire around homes and in communities. The program focuses on homes and communities in the wildland/urban interface: developments that are located within or near wildland areas.

Landscaping and home construction are the two areas where you can reduce the risk of wildfire on your property. Landscape and construction materials make a huge difference when it comes to increasing your home's chances of surviving a wildfire.

The B.C. Forest Service is concerned about residents living in forested areas and will take action to prevent the loss of life or the spread of fire to or from structures. However, Forest Service personnel are not equipped or trained to fight structural fires.

Everyone shares the responsibility for preserving life and property by planning for fire protection.

FireSmart Homeowners Manuals are available online or through Fire Centres, Zone Offices and the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

Today at Coastal

Bremner Creek, V11641

Location: west side of Harrison Lake

Status: 72 ha; 100% contained;

Resources: 54 fire fighters, 1 helicopter.

Objectives: 9 hotspots detected Sept. 7th. – 2 inaccessible. Patrol and mop-up of existing hotspots. De-mob commences today.

Other: Harrison West Forest Service Road remains under full closure to public. Assessment will be carried out September 8, 2009 to determine opening.

Spuzzum Creek, V11195

Location: West of Fraser River, opposite Spuzzum First Nations Band Office.

Status: 32.6 hectares; 0% contained; lightning-caused

Resources: two helicopters; currently no personnel on the ground, it has been determined that the terrain is too steep and not safe for ground crews.

Weather Forecast

SYNOPSIS: A day between weather systems today will see mostly dry but cool conditions. But a very wet front lies just offshore and will bring rain to the Mid-coast this afternoon and then spread south overnight bringing rain to all southern zones tomorrow. Conservative estimates of rainfall amounts say at least 10 millimetres in the next 36 hours but other forecasts show double that amount.

OUTLOOK: a ridge builds Thursday with a return to sunny dry warmer weather. Ridge holds for Friday and Saturday and afternoon highs reach the mid 20s.

LONG TERM TREND: Another front early next week and then another ridge for typical September weather.