



# BCWS Seasonal Readiness For Oil and Gas Sector

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# The BC Wildfire Service



The BC Wildfire Service is a branch of the Ministry of Forests

Mandate:

Deliver effective wildfire management and emergency response support on behalf of the Government of British Columbia

Protect lives and values at risk

Encourage sustainable, healthy and resilient ecosystem

The BC Wildfire Service is authorized to carry out fire control on any land in British Columbia if the fire endangers life or threatens forest or grass land.





# Fire Season Summary & Outlook

# 2021 Activity by Fire Centre

## Northwest Fire Centre (NWFC)

58 wildfires  
28,645 hectares burned

## Prince George Fire Centre (PGFC)

269 wildfires  
128,292 hectares burned

## Coastal Fire Centre (CoFC)

209 wildfires  
7,097 hectares burned

## Cariboo Fire Centre (CaFC)

264 wildfires  
129,534 hectares burned

## Kamloops Fire Centre (KFC)

452 wildfires  
497,492 hectares burned

## Southeast Fire Centre (SEFC)

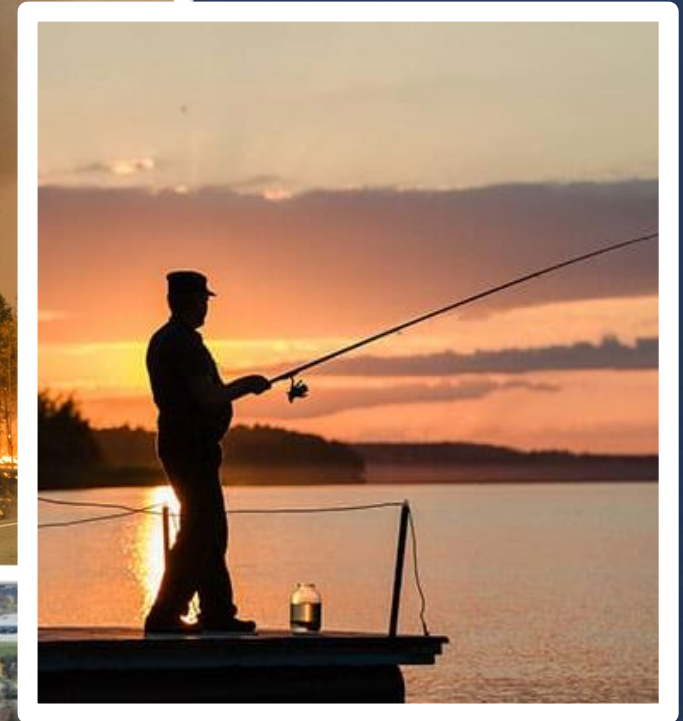
359 wildfires  
77,089 hectares burned



*From April 1 to Sept. 30, 2021*



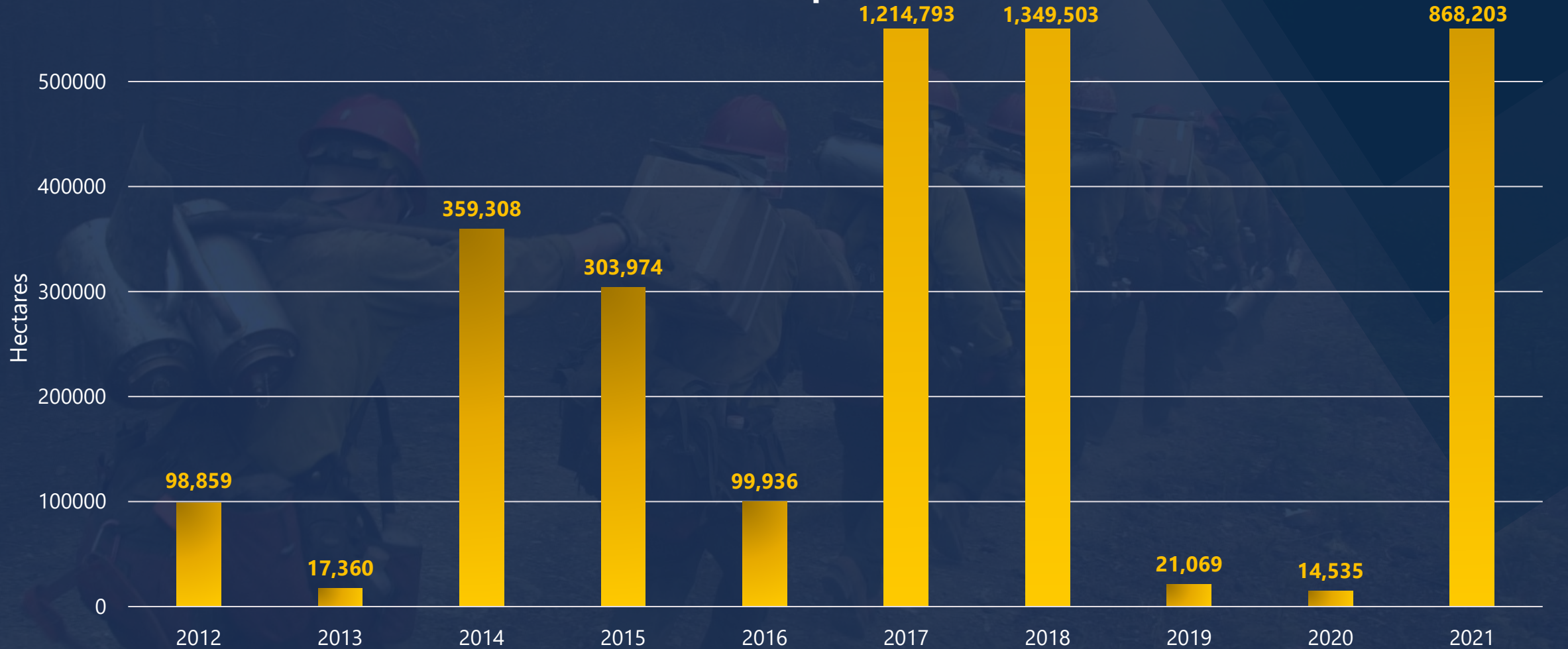
**What kind of  
fire season will  
it be this year?**





# Provincial Hectares Burned

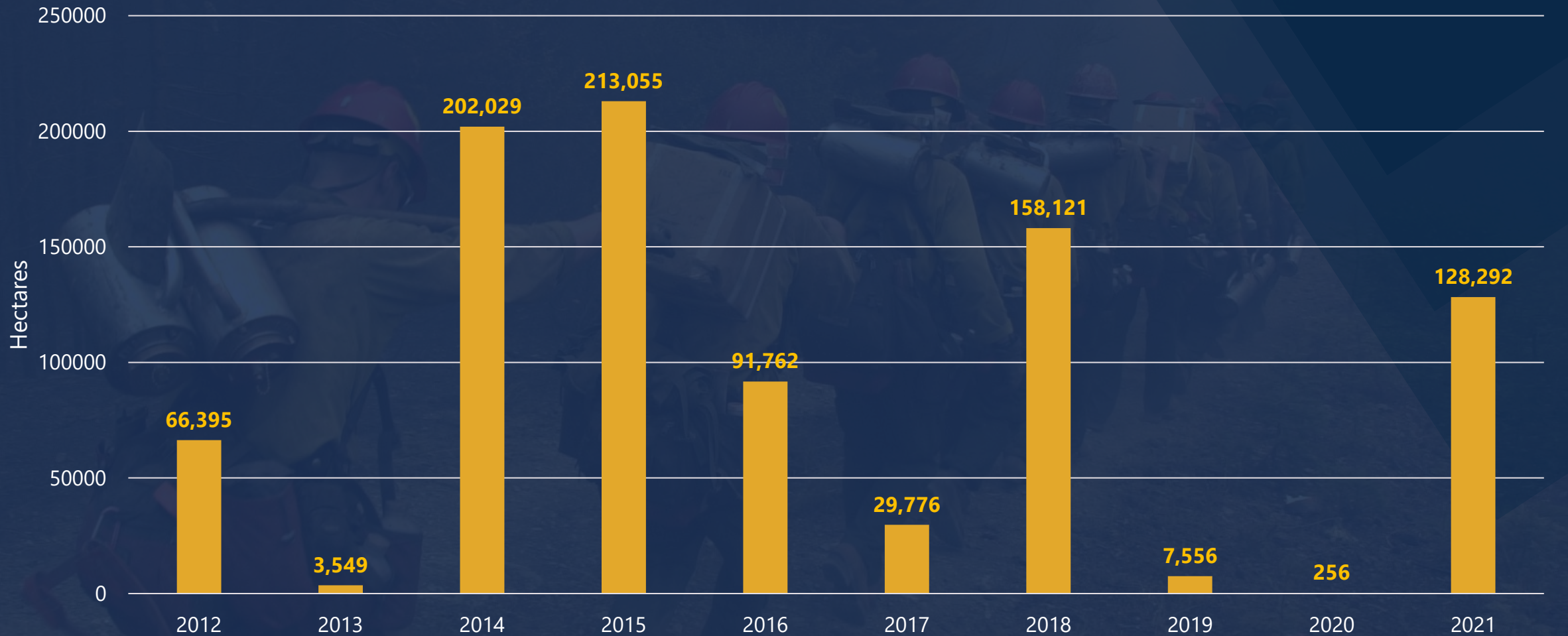
## 10-Year Comparison



*\*From April 1 to September 30*

# Hectares Burned – PGFC

## 10-Year Comparison



*\*From April 1 to September 30*

# Wildfire Prevention



# Industrial Activities

Industrial activities include the following:

- ✓ Operating equipment or machinery in relation to:
  - Debris piling
  - Road construction, maintenance or deactivation
  - Rock drilling
  - Portable wood chipping
  - Utility transmission operations**
  
- ✓ High Risk Activities



(2) A person who carries out an industrial activity must do so

(a) at a time, and

(b) in a manner

that can reasonably be expected to prevent fires from starting because of the industrial activity.

# High Risk Activities

## "high risk activity" means

- (a) mechanical brushing;
- (b) disk trenching;
- (c) preparation or use of explosives;
- (d) using fire- or spark-producing tools, including cutting tools;
- (e) using or preparing fireworks or pyrotechnics;
- (f) grinding, including rail grinding;
- (g) mechanical land clearing;
- (h) clearing and maintaining rights of way, including grass mowing;
- (i) any of the following activities carried out in a cutblock excluding a road, landing, roadside work area or log sort area in the cutblock:
  - (i) operating a power saw;
  - (ii) mechanical tree felling, woody debris piling or tree processing, including de-limbing;
  - (iii) welding;
  - (iv) portable wood chipping, milling, processing or manufacturing;
  - (v) skidding logs or log forwarding unless it is improbable that the skidding or forwarding will result in the equipment contacting rock;
  - (vi) yarding logs using cable systems;



# Not a High Risk Activity



## Restrictions on High Risk Activities

- ✓ Must determine the Fire Danger Class for the work location
- ✓ May have to perform fire watch
- ✓ May be restricted to early shift
- ✓ May be required to shut down

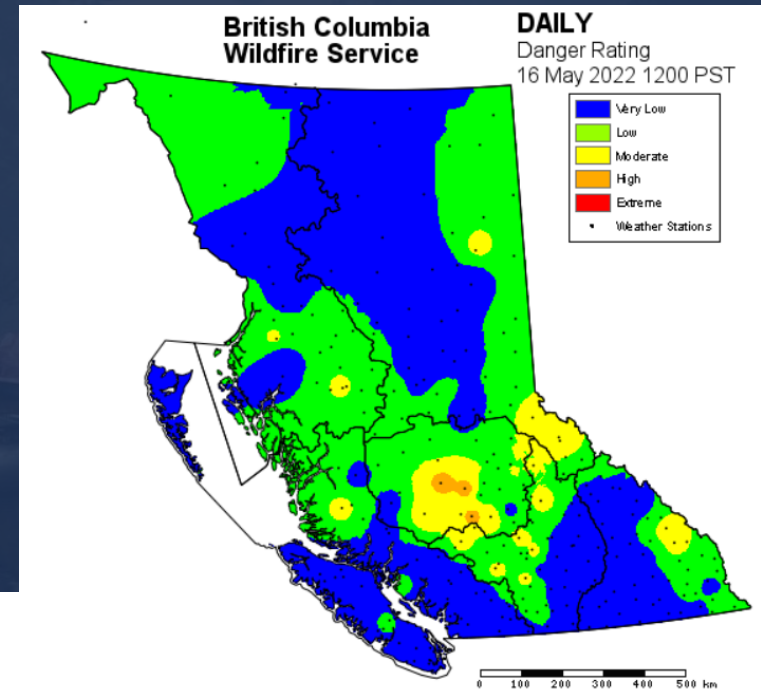


# Restrictions on High Risk Activities

5 = Extreme Danger 4 = High Danger 3 = Moderate Danger 2 = Low Danger 1 = Very Low Danger

ND No Data    Green Station Startup    White Actual data    Yellow Estimate data    Blue Forecast data

STATION	2022 05/12	2022 05/13	2022 05/14	2022 05/15	2022 05/16	2022 05/17	2022 05/18	2022 05/19	2022 05/20
MEADOW LAKE	2	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	ND
RISKE CREEK	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	ND
NAZKO	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	ND
NEMIAH	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	ND
LONE BUTTE	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	ND
KNIFE	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	ND
CHURN CREEK	4	2	2	3	4	3	2	3	ND
ALEXIS CREEK	4	2	2	2	4	3	3	2	ND
PLACE LAKE	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	ND
MIDDLE LAKE	1	2	2	2	1	ND	ND	ND	ND



## Schedule 3

[en. B.C. Reg. 157/2020, s. 9.]

### Restrictions on High Risk Activities

Item	Column 1 Fire Danger Class (DGR)	Column 2 Restriction	Column 3 Duration
1	III (moderate)	After 3 consecutive days of DGR III or greater, maintain a fire watcher after work for a minimum of one hour	Until after the fire danger class falls below DGR III
2	IV (high)	Maintain a fire watcher after work for a minimum of 2 hours	Until after the fire danger class falls to DGR III for 2 consecutive days or falls below DGR III
3		After 3 consecutive days of DGR IV, cease activity between 1 p.m. Pacific Daylight Saving Time and sunset each day	
4	V (extreme)	Cease activity between 1 p.m. Pacific Daylight Saving Time and sunset each day and maintain a fire watcher after work for a minimum of 2 hours	Until after the fire danger class falls below DGR IV for 2 or more consecutive days
		After 3 consecutive days of DGR V, cease activity all day	Until after the fire danger class falls to DGR IV for 3 or more consecutive days or falls below DGR IV



# Exemptions

- Provides a legal variance to restrictions on some high risk activities
- Alternative requirements



# Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation





The Safety Association for Canada's  
Upstream Oil and Gas Industry



## FireSmart® Field Guide for Upstream Oil and Gas Industry

A field guide for frontline operators to help prevent wildfires and reduce the impact of catastrophic wildfire on industry infrastructure, operations, personnel safety, liability and the environment

RELEASED » 2012

Prepared for Canadian Petroleum Producers and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

By industry, for industry



# FireSmart on owned or leased sites

## FireSmart on adjacent Crown land

- Requires Ministry approval

## Considerations:

- Building construction
- Combustible/flammable materials
- Proximity to forest edge
- Fire protection equipment (sprinklers)

Is this site FireSmart?



# Wildfire Training and Equipment

- S100 Basic Fire Suppression
- ICS 100 (Incident Command System)
- SP 115 Structure Protection (Sprinklers)
- Portable pumps, hose, hand tools, portable water tanks, water tenders/trailers, heavy equipment, sprinklers

# Wildfire Response



# Provincial Operations

## 6 Fire Centres

- Prince George
- Cariboo (Williams Lake)
- Northwest (Smithers)
- Kamloops
- Southeast (Castlegar)
- Coastal (Parksville)

## 1 Provincial Coordination Centre - Kamloops

## 1 Headquarters - Victoria



# Provincial Crew, Personnel and Specialty Resources

- 140 Initial Attack Crews (Including parattack and rapattack)
- 30 Unit Crews
- 8 Air Tanker Groups
- 8 Medium Helitankers
- 6 Incident Management Teams
- Structure Protection Specialists and Crews
- Fire Camps
  
- Agreements with Provinces to supply additional resources



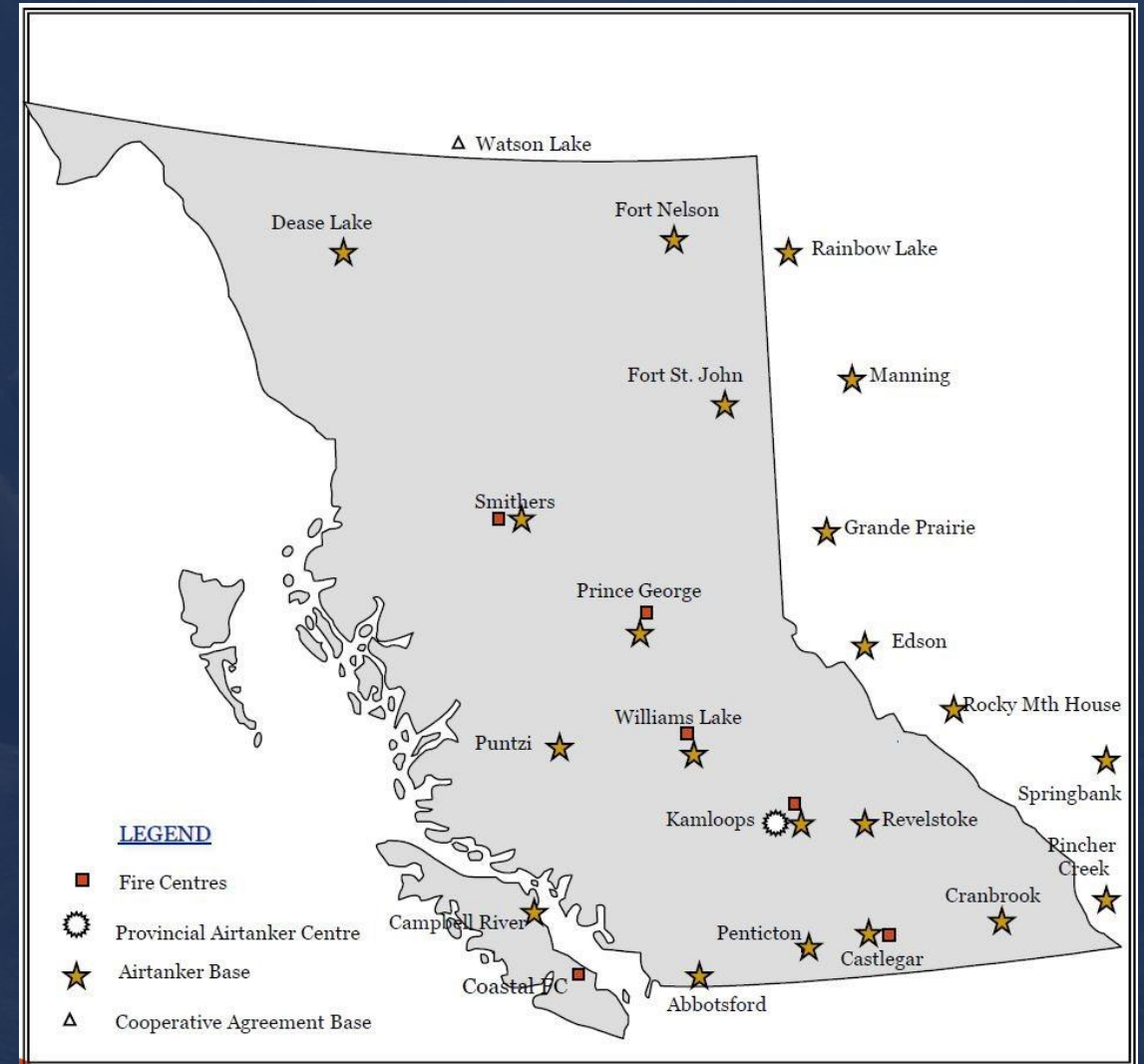


# Additional Local Resources

- Helicopter companies
- Forest Industry staff and contractors
- Heavy equipment (dozers, excavators, tenders, etc)
- Type 2 and 3 contract fire crews
- Fire Departments

# Provincial Air Tanker Centre (PATC)

Group	Location	Aircraft	Contract Start
1	Ft St John	Q400 x 1	May 01
2	Williams Lake	L188 x 1	April 22
3	Castlegar	L188 x 1	May 22
4	Prince George	L188 x 2	May 04
5	Kamloops	RJ85 x 2	May 09
6	Penticton	CV-580 x 3	May 07
7	Prince George	AT-802FB x 4	May 31
8	Kamloops	AT-802FB x 6	May 13



# Evacuation Alerts and Orders

## *Emergency Program Act*

- BC Wildfire recommends alert, order or all clear to local authority or First Nations
- Local authority or First Nations issues the alert, order or all clear

## *Wildfire Act*

- BC Wildfire may issue an order to leave when time is of the essence
- BC Wildfire may order an Area Restriction to keep the public out of fire areas

## **EVACUATION ORDER**

**Somewhere, BC**

[DATE (mm/dd/yyyy) AND TIME (24-hr clock)]

# Industry Responsibilities



# Industry Response to Wildfires

- ✓ Report all wildfires
- ✓ Suppress wildfires caused by the worksite
- ✓ Suppress wildfires within 1 km of your industrial activity



## Section 6(3) *Wildfire Act* – Industrial Activities

(3) If, except in the prescribed circumstances referred to in section 5 (1) or subsection (1) of this section, a fire starts at, or within 1 km of, the site of the industrial activity, the person carrying out the industrial activity must

(a) immediately carry out fire control and extinguish the fire, if practicable,

(b) continue with fire control for the fire until

(i) the fire is extinguished,

(ii) it becomes impracticable to continue with fire control, or

(iii) an official relieves the person in writing from continuing,

(c) as soon as practicable, report the fire as described in section 2, and

(d) in accordance with prescribed requirements, rehabilitate the land damaged by fire control carried out by the person.

# Wildfire Recovery



# Fireline Rehabilitation



- ✓ Erosion control
- ✓ Site stabilization
- ✓ Water course repairs
- ✓ Slash disposal




# Safety Near Oil and Gas



# Restricted Airspace

## Airspace is Restricted Near Wildfires

- 5 nautical miles = 9 ¼ km






**IF YOU'RE IN THE SKY...**



**WE CAN'T FLY.**

When you fly a UAV or drone near or over a **#BCwildfire**, you're breaking the law and endangering firefighting personnel.

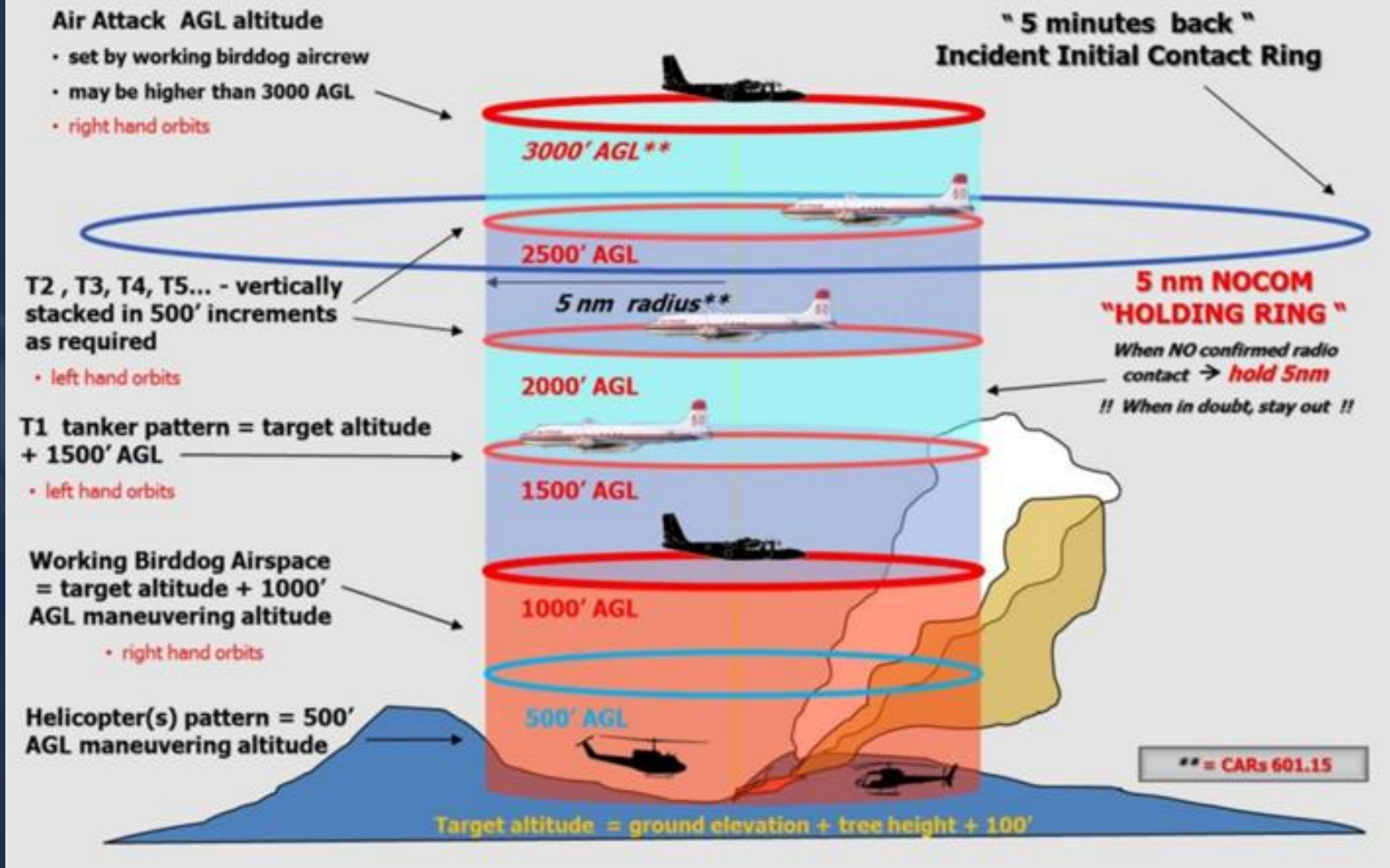
The restricted airspace includes a radius of five nautical miles around the fire and to an altitude of 3,000 feet above ground level. Transport Canada and the BC Wildfire Service explicitly prohibit the use of UAVs or drones of any size near a wildfire.

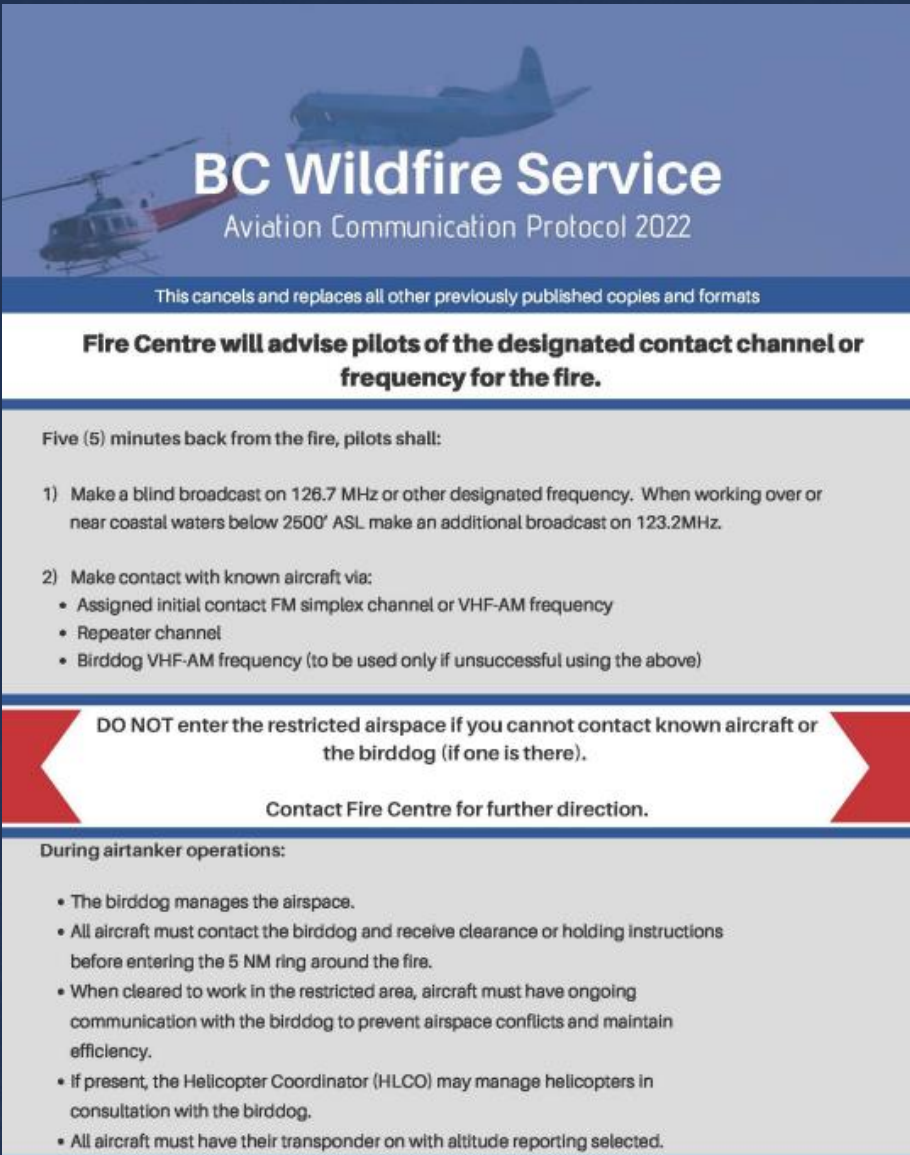
**Learn more:** [www.tc.gc.ca/SafetyFirst](http://www.tc.gc.ca/SafetyFirst)

 [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)  [BC Forest Fire Info](#)  [Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations](#)

 [@BCGovFireInfo](#)  [ProvinceofBC](#)

# BCWS Fire Traffic Area (FTA)





**BC Wildfire Service**  
Aviation Communication Protocol 2022

This cancels and replaces all other previously published copies and formats

**Fire Centre will advise pilots of the designated contact channel or frequency for the fire.**

Five (5) minutes back from the fire, pilots shall:

- 1) Make a blind broadcast on 126.7 MHz or other designated frequency. When working over or near coastal waters below 2500' ASL make an additional broadcast on 123.2MHz.
- 2) Make contact with known aircraft via:
  - Assigned initial contact FM simplex channel or VHF-AM frequency
  - Repeater channel
  - Birddog VHF-AM frequency (to be used only if unsuccessful using the above)

**DO NOT enter the restricted airspace if you cannot contact known aircraft or the birddog (if one is there).**

Contact Fire Centre for further direction.

During airtanker operations:

- The birddog manages the airspace.
- All aircraft must contact the birddog and receive clearance or holding instructions before entering the 5 NM ring around the fire.
- When cleared to work in the restricted area, aircraft must have ongoing communication with the birddog to prevent airspace conflicts and maintain efficiency.
- If present, the Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO) may manage helicopters in consultation with the birddog.
- All aircraft must have their transponder on with altitude reporting selected.

# Permission to Enter Restricted Airspace (Prince George Fire Centre)

## Contact:

1. Incident Commander (If known)
2. Local Wildfire Zone Office
3. Air Branch Coordinator (PG) 778-693-2890
4. Wildfire Reporting Centre 1-800-663-5555

**Default Air to Air is VHF-AM  
126.7**

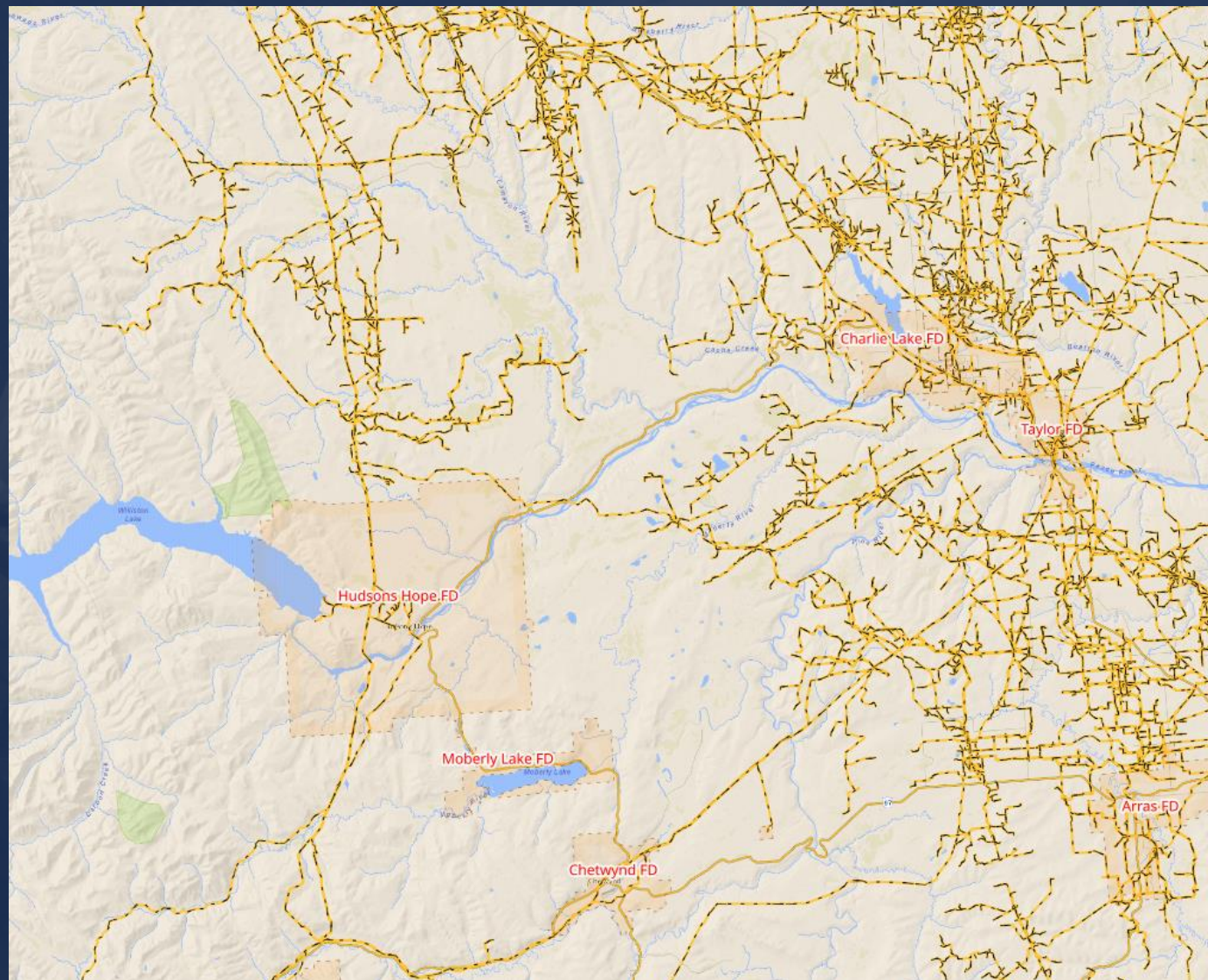
# Heavy Equipment on the Fireline

- Fireline construction
- Sump construction
- Water delivery
- Fireline Rehabilitation



# BCWS Heavy Equipment Safety Measures

- Pipeline maps
- Signage
- Company contact



# BCWS Firefighter Safety Near H2S

- ✓ Awareness training
- ✓ H2S detectors
- ✓ Alternate strategies and tactics



## BC Wildfire Service

### Operational Work Safe Standard #8

### Hydrogen Sulphide and Geophysical Operations



# Wildfire Information Resources



# Communications Procedures and Resources for Fires Oil and Gas

- Direct contact with the Incident Commander
- EMBC coordination calls
- BC Wildfire website
- Non-BCWS online resources

# BCWS Public Website: [bcwildfire.ca](https://bcwildfire.ca)

Easy-to-access information, including:

- Interactive wildfire map
- Wildfires of Note
- Current wildfire activity
- Information bulletins
- Fire bans and restrictions
- Career opportunities
- And more ...

The screenshot shows the homepage of the BC Wildfire Service website. At the top, there is a blue header with the British Columbia logo and a search bar. Below the header, the main content area is titled "Wildfire Service". A prominent banner features an "Update: BC FireSmart Manual" with a "Download now!" button. To the right, there is a "Fire Danger Rating" section with a map of British Columbia showing fire danger levels. Below the banner, there is a search bar for "Wildfire Service". A "Popular Resources" section includes links to "Wildfires of Note", "Interactive Wildfire Map", and "Emergency Info BC". A "Contact Us" section provides information on how to report a wildfire and burn registration.



# FIRMS US/CANADA

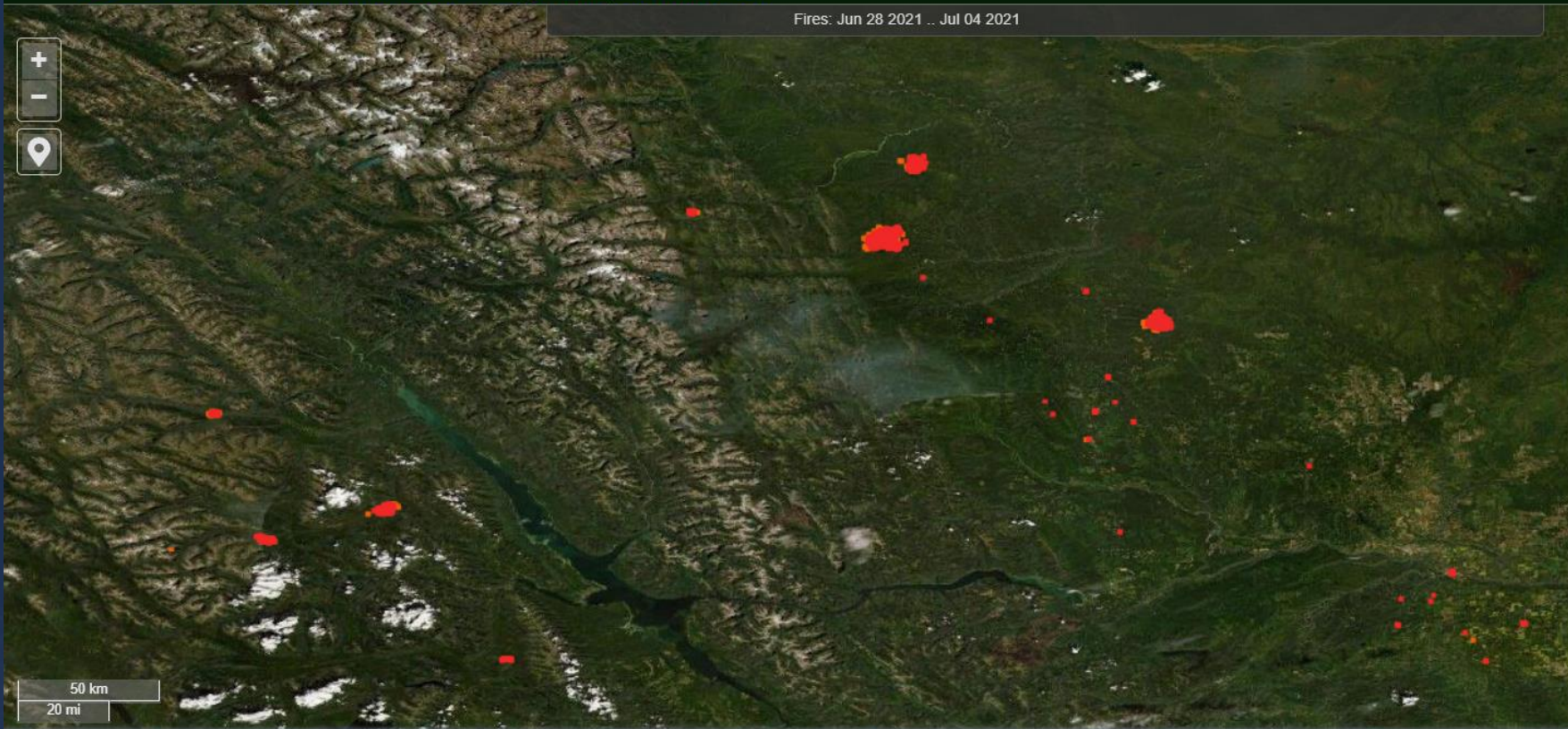
Fire Information for Resource Management System US/Canada

Announcements

Feedback



Fires: Jun 28 2021 .. Jul 04 2021



**CURRENT** | **HISTORICAL** ✕

📅 Jul 04 2021 | 📅 WEEK ▼

**BASIC MODE** | ADVANCED MODE

**Fires / Hotspots** ℹ️ -

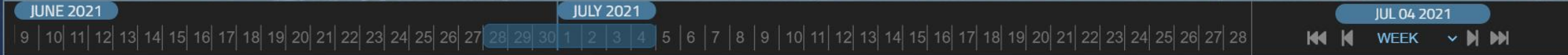
**Simple** | Time Based

- 🔴 VIIRS (S-NPP & NOAA-20) ℹ️
- 🔴 MODIS (Aqua & Terra) ℹ️

**Active Alerts** -

- USA Active **AVAILABLE**  
2022-04-25 - present ⊕ ℹ️
- Canada Acti **AVAILABLE**  
2022-04-25 - present ⊕ ℹ️
- USA Fire Pe **AVAILABLE**  
2022-04-18 - present ⊕ ℹ️

**Overlays** +



👤 PAN
📏 MEASURE
📍 LOCATION
📄 LAYERS
☰ TIMELINE
🔗 SHARE
📷 SCREENSHOT
❓ HELP
🚀 NASA

# Other BCWS Information Sources

## Official BCWS mobile app

- Available in the App store

## GeoBC

- Wildfire perimeter uploads

## Social Media

- Facebook (BC Forest Fire Info)
- Twitter (@BCGovFireInfo)

**Wildfire Information Hotline: 1-888-336-7378  
(1-888-3FOREST)**

# Prince George Fire Centre Contact Information

Front Desk: 250-561-4628

Communications: 250-561-4629

[BCWS.PGFCInformationOfficer@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCWS.PGFCInformationOfficer@gov.bc.ca)

**Andrea Rainey, Wildfire Prevention Officer**

Desk: 778-693-3184

Email: [andrea.rainey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:andrea.rainey@gov.bc.ca)

**Doug Smith, Senior Wildfire Officer**

Desk: 778-693-2879

Email: [doug.j.smith@gov.bc.ca](mailto:doug.j.smith@gov.bc.ca)

**Emergency Aviation Contact**

Desk: 778-693-2890

Email: [bcws.pgfcaviation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:bcws.pgfcaviation@gov.bc.ca)

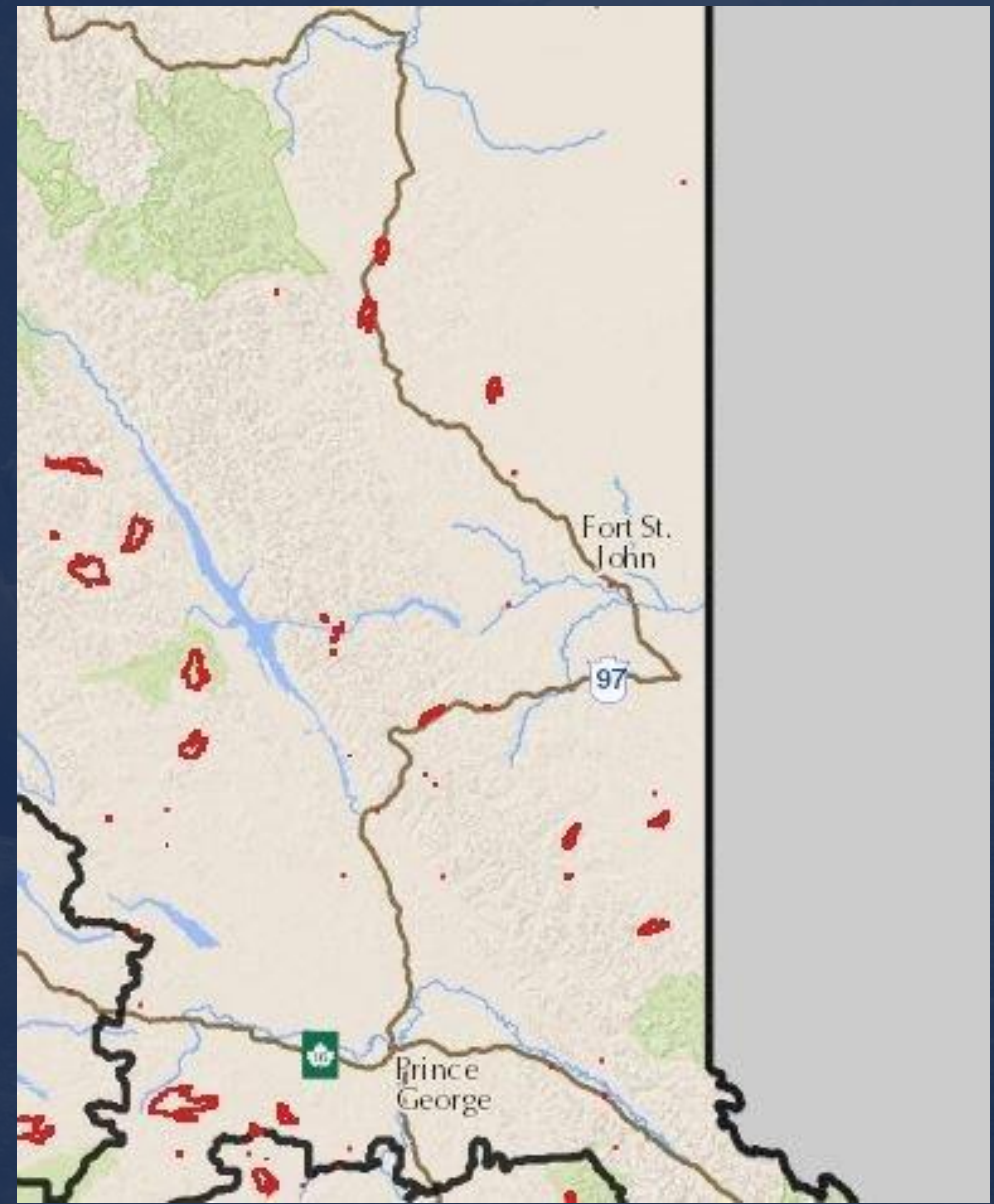
**Wildfire Reporting Centre: 1-800-663-5555  
(\*5555 on mobile)**



THANK YOU.  
**Questions?**

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# 2021 Prince George Fire Centre



# G80997 Alaska Highway





# G91020 Minaker



# G81007 Beaton River



## G71138 Tentfire Creek





## G41269 Cutoff Creek

# G72591 Pine River





THANK YOU.  
**Questions?**

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