



Contractor Safety and the BC Wildfire Service



BC Wildfire Service

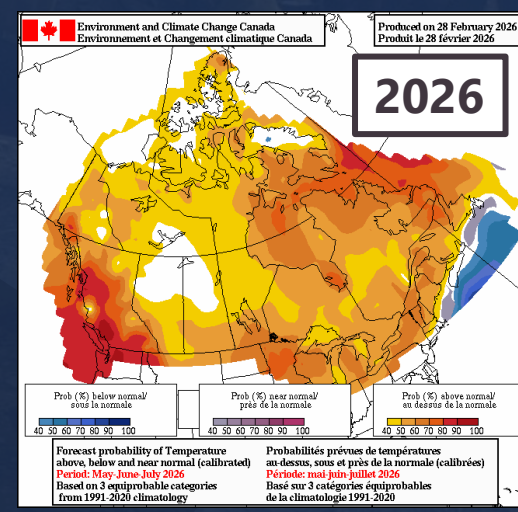
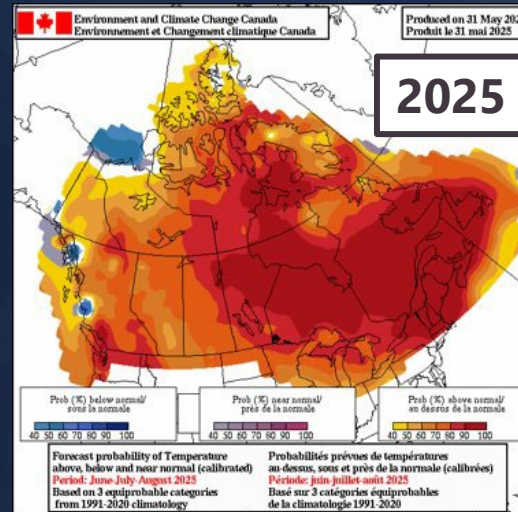
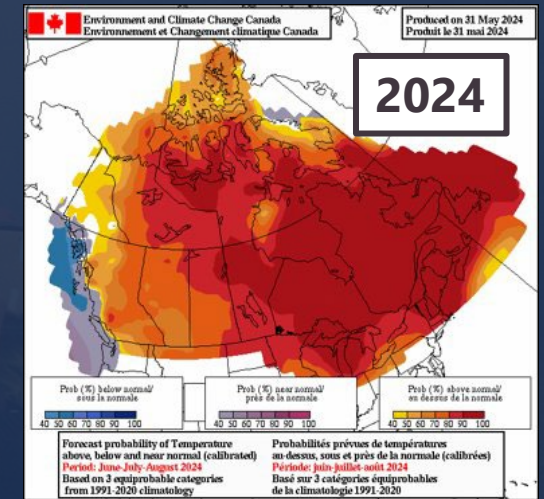
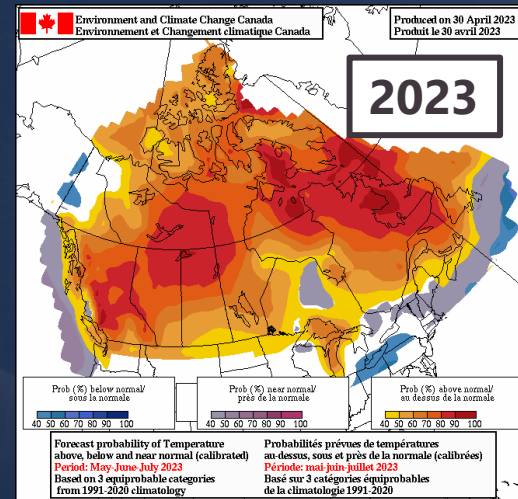
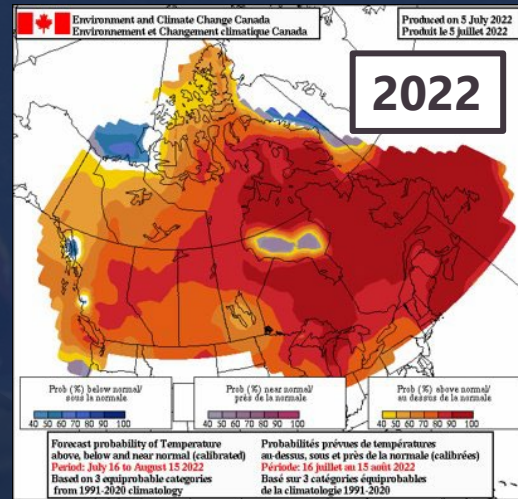
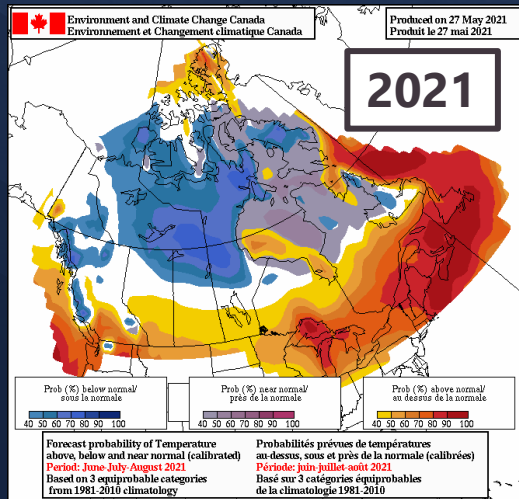
Hazards and risks associated to wildland fire fighting

Fire behaviour is becoming more extreme and less predictable, driven by prolonged drought, fuel loading from insects/disease, and climate-driven heat events.

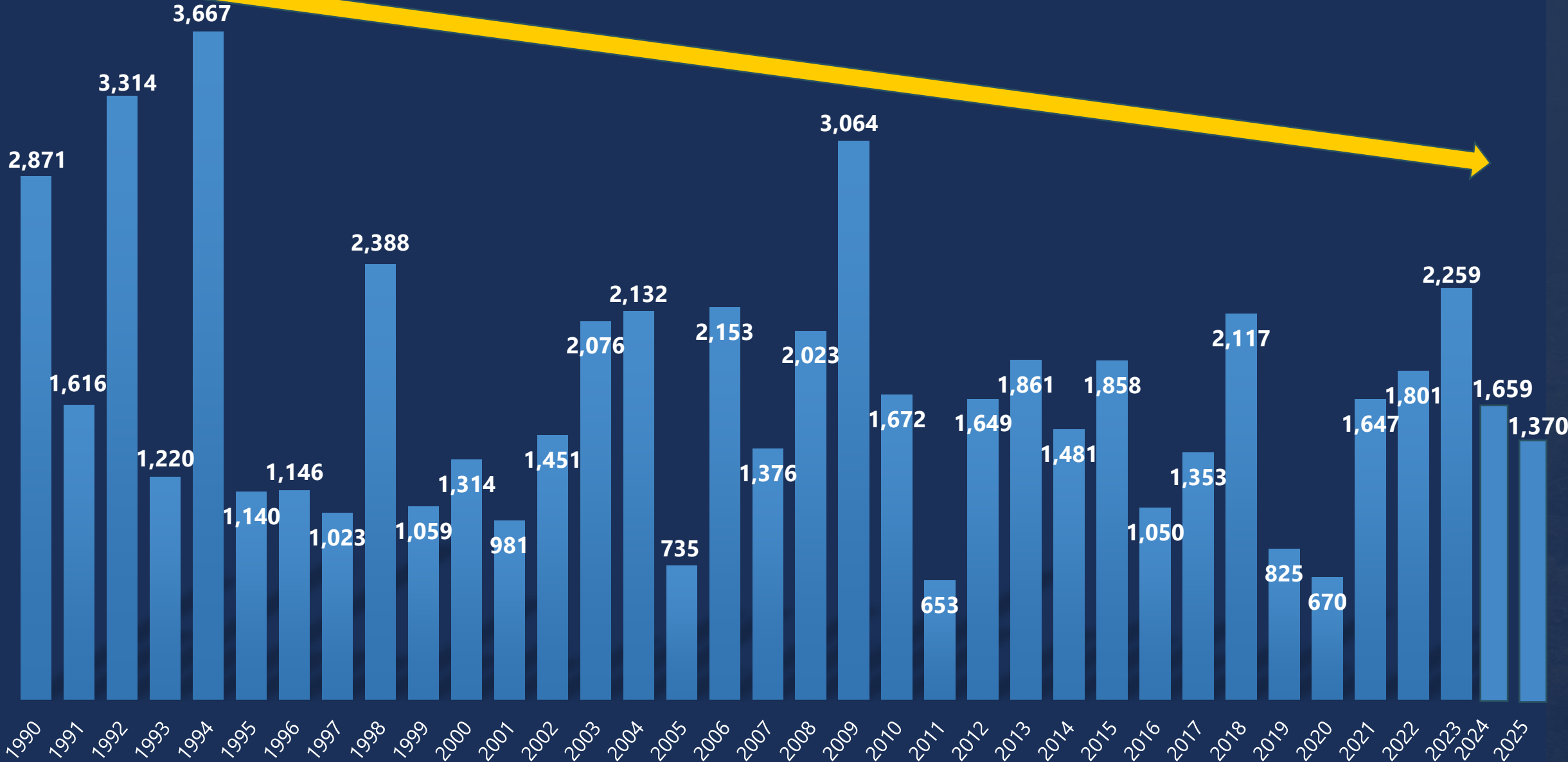
Six of BC's most severe fire seasons have been since 2017, and climate projections are indicating that we will continue to see more prolonged and severe wildfire events.



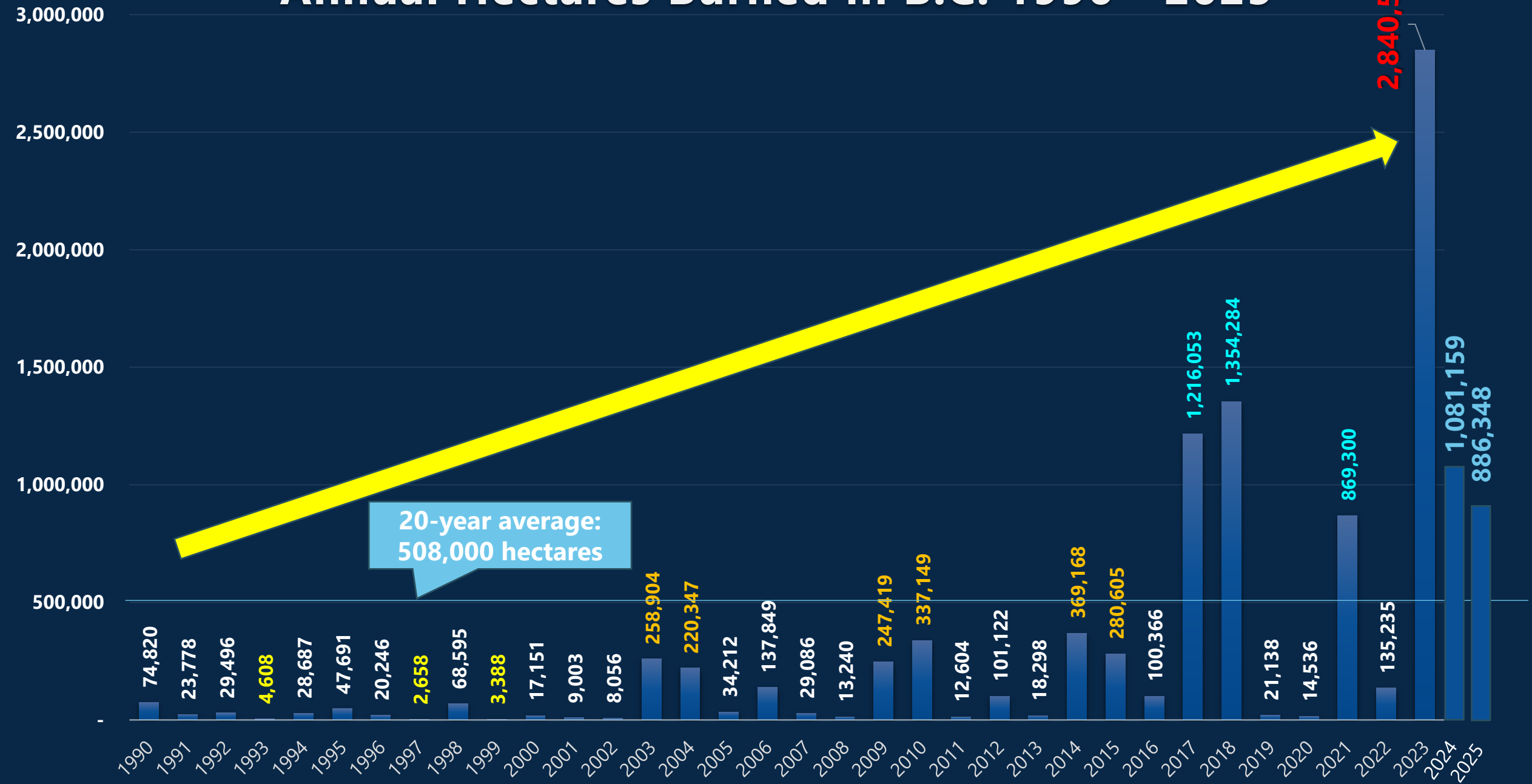
Hazards and risks associated to wildland fire fighting



Annual Number of Fires 1990 - 2025



Annual Hectares Burned in B.C. 1990 - 2025




Hazards and risks associated to wildland fire fighting

All activities in wildland firefighting carry inherent risk.

“Without either limiting the number of individuals exposed to hazards or limiting their engagement to areas with less hazard or lower intensity hazard to begin with, the frequency and severity of many of these injuries cannot be prevented or eliminated.”

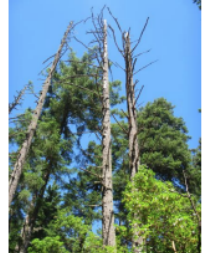
Source: US Forest Service - Quantifying Danger: New data on wildland firefighter injuries



FTAC SAFETY ALERT

Danger Tree Assessment
Date: August 14, 2025

The past two years (2023–2025) have seen a troubling rise in serious injuries and fatalities in forestry, oil and gas, and wildfire industries across British Columbia. Effective, qualified Danger Tree Assessments are vital to protect workers and prevent tragedies.



This alert addresses the urgent need to identify and mitigate hazards from danger trees, those that pose immediate or potential risks due to structural instability, fire hazards or other environmental factors.


Hazards of danger trees include struck-by incidents from falling trees and fire-related dangers exacerbated by extreme weather.

Importance of Qualified Assessments

- Only certified professionals should address danger trees, ensuring accurate identification of risks such as root rot, lean, cracks or fire damage.
- Proper assessments prevent injuries by determining the hazards posed, effective communication of those hazards, safe felling zones, avoiding unstable trees and planning safe work areas.
- Qualified assessors use tools and training to evaluate tree stability, utilizing effective methods of communication and management strategies to protect workers.

Suggested Actions for Workers

- Report any suspected danger trees to your supervisor immediately.
- Avoid working near trees with visible damage, lean or fire exposure until assessed and managed.
- Consider taking the free Danger Tree Awareness training course offered by the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC).



<https://www.bcforestsafecouncil.ca/introduction-to-dangerous-trees-on-forestry-worksites/>

For training or reporting concerns, contact BCFSC or WorkSafeBC.

The Falling Technical Advisory Committee encourages all BC forestry workers to prioritize safety through rigorous Danger Tree Assessments. Stay vigilant, stay trained and stay safe.

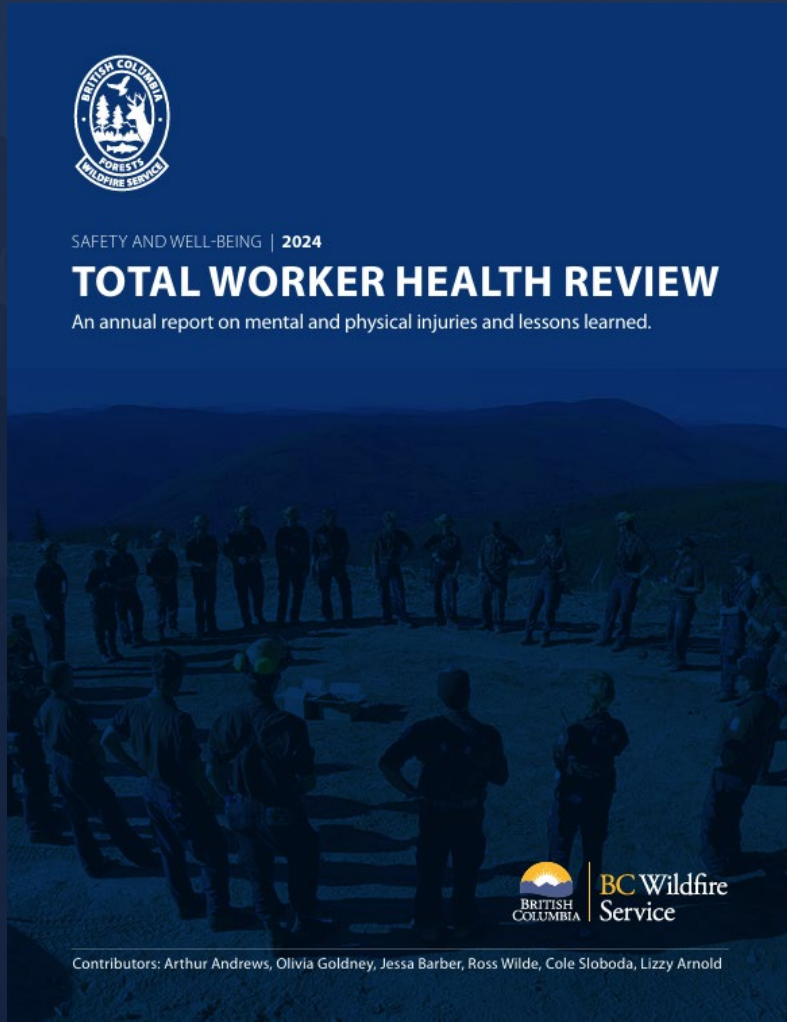
[Click here](#) to access this safety alert from our website.

Connect With Us: [bcforestsafecouncil.ca](https://www.bcforestsafecouncil.ca) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)

Disclaimer: FTAC Alerts are voluntarily submitted by workers or companies. We encourage the sharing of information that can help improve safety for all forestry workers. The BC Forest Safety Council is not responsible for accuracy of content.

BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL | 8C - 2220 BOWEN ROAD, NANAIMO BC V9S 1H9 | 1.877.741.1060 | BCFORESTSAFE.ORG

Hazards and risks associated to wildland fire fighting

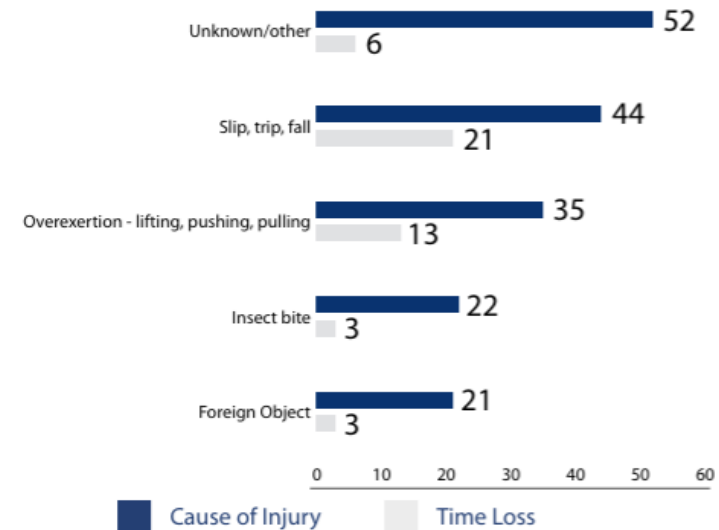


Reported Injuries

Total Injuries Reported **312**

Time loss injuries **95**

Top Five Causes of Injury (2024)



Safety standards in the procurement process

Four Person Type II Crew (4 pack)		
All Crew Personnel must be the minimum age of 19 years.		
Personnel (4)	1	Single Resource Type II (Crew Leader)
	3	Fire Fighter Type II
Qualifications	1	Advanced First Aid Attendant
	3	Basic First Aid with Transportation Endorsement
	1	Basic Chainsaw Operator
	1	Qualified Faller
	1	Certified Wildfire Danger Tree Assessor

Five Person Type III Crew (5 pack)		
Only ONE Crew member can be a minor of the age of 18 years. The total number of <u>minors</u> and trainees cannot be greater than 2. For example, if there is a <u>minor</u> on the 5 pack then only one trainee will be permitted.		
Personnel (5)	1	Single Resource Type III (Crew Leader) *Cannot be a minor
	4	Fire Fighter Type III (Crew Member) - Max 2x Fire Fighter Type III Trainee - Max 1x Fire Fighter Type III Minor *Total number of Minors and Trainees cannot exceed 2
Qualifications	2	First Aid Attendants 1 Advanced First Aid Attendant 1 Basic First Aid Attendant with Transportation Endorsement
	1	Basic Chainsaw Operator *Cannot be a Fire Fighter Trainee
	1	Certified Wildfire Danger Tree Assessor *Cannot be a Fire Fighter Trainee

Class 1 Faller:	
Position	Qualified Faller Basic
Qualifications	S 100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety or equivalent (annual re- currency) S 185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance Basic First Aid
	British Columbia Faller Certification (BC Wildfire, BC Forest Safety Council) with a minimum of 7 years of experience averaging 100 days a year within the past 10 years from the issue date of the RSA
Employer Relationship Qualification	Contractor must have a work history with the Class 1 Faller, where a minimum of 3 qualified supervisor inspections are available upon request from within the past 8 months from the issued date of the RSA. Inspections must show evidence of professional attitude and safe workmanship.
Faller Experience Qualifications	Class 1 Fallers are required to have 2 years' experience within the past 5 years in from the issued date of the RSA in Forestry Harvesting work involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. falling heli, conventional or road right of way; iii. large diameter timber greater than 48"; and iv. steep slope greater than 45%. <p>Class 1 Fallers are required to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the ability to open up and conduct complex in stand falling; ii. experience with complex danger trees; iii. experience in falling at remote Worksites; iv. experience supervising other fallers; v. Hover Exit training and experience; vi. Helipad Construction; and vii. Fire experience of at least 50 days in the past 5 years from the issued date of the RSA
Optional Qualifications	Danger Tree Assessor Certificate – Wildfire Safety Module; Hoist training; and Advanced First Aid

Safety standards in the procurement process

Equipment and Qualification Inspections

Every contracted service should have an inspection completed by the Fire Centre, Fire Zone, or Fireline Supervisor upon arrival to the requested muster site.

Contractor Performance Evaluations

The primary purpose of this evaluation is to offer timely feedback to resources concerning their performance, which can help sustain good work practices and address any areas of weakness.

Event of Default/Non-Compliance

All deficiencies or issues identified during the inspection or witnessed unsafe acts, performance issues or quality of work must be reported and documented.

BCWS CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION		INSTRUCTIONS: See reverse side for completion instructions			
TO BE COMPLETED BY THE INCIDENT SUPERVISOR					
CREW OR SINGLE RESOURCE CALL SIGN:	INCIDENT #/COMPLEX NAME	# OF DAYS EACH FIRE STAGE/TYP			
CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE:	TYPE	DC	BH	UC	P
CONTRACTOR BUSINESS LOCATION AND HOME FIRE CENTER:	RESOURCE REQUEST #	1			
		2			
		3			
CONTRACTOR SERVICE TYPE	START DATE: YYYY/MM/DD	END DATE: YYYY/MM/DD	4		
			5		
WORK PERFORMANCE RATINGS					
Performance Indicators: <small>(See reverse for descriptions)</small>	Enter Rating (see back)	COMMENTS: <small>(Please provide detailed comments reflecting the descriptors on the back page)</small>			
Safety					
Operational Proficiency					
Administrative Accountability					
Day to Day Organization					
Ability to Plan and Resolve Urgent Situations					
Communications and Leadership					
Physical Fitness					
Productivity/ Ability to Meet Daily Objectives					
Suitability for the Service Type					
Conduct and Professionalism					
OVERALL PERFORMANCE / GENERAL COMMENTS:					
<small>General Comments: Overall performance, improvements, achievements, incident complexity, number of personnel, events of note, any notice to comply or stop work orders issued</small>					
INCIDENT SUPERVISOR:		Contractor Representative:			
NAME	WORK PHONE #	COMMENTS			
ADDRESS	SUPERVISOR'S POSITION				
INCIDENT SUP. SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED YYYY/MM/DD	Contractor Rep SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED YYYY/MM/DD		

Distribution:
1. Provide copy to contractor personnel for review and signature
2. Finalized copy to Home Fire Centre Logistics
3. Logistics will email copy to CWS Contracts and Company Owner

PS1476 Contractor Performance Evaluation Mar 23

BCWS and Contractor Safety – WorkSafe BC

WorkSafeBC has identified wildfire work as a prevention priority, increasing inspections, guidance, and enforcement due to rising injuries, fatalities, and exposure risks.



BCWS and Contractor Safety – WorkSafe BC

WSBC Orders: Danger tree awareness

BCWS Actions:

- Training and awareness:
 - Utilized BCFSC Danger Tree Awareness course
 - In 2024, BCWS introduced a Danger Tree Awareness course to New Recruit Boot Camp in addition to other safety courses.
- Operational improvements:
 - Safe Work guidance has been developed to assist workers in falling trees through natural means to reduce exposure at the base of actively burning trees.



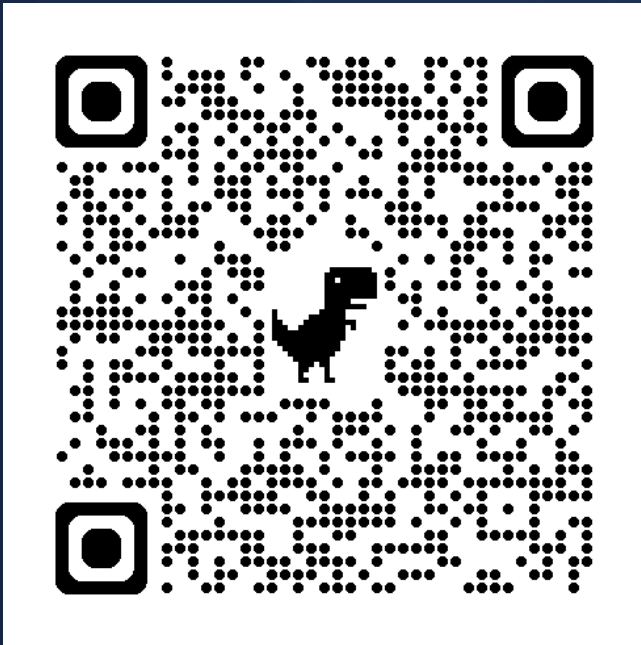
BCWS and Contractor Safety – WorkSafe BC

WSBC Orders: Training and supervision

- Regular and consistent use of the Field Safety Plan will be addressed in new crew leader training and as part of the annual recurrency training.
- Increased responsibility for Zone Wildfire Officers to track and ensure completion of training.
- Increased responsibility of Zone and Regional Wildfire Coordination Officers to ensure appropriate crew supervision/leadership is in place for any high-risk activity personnel may be undertaking.



BCWS and Contractor Safety – WorkSafe BC



Media Backgrounder: Wildfire season in B.C.: Worker safety and employer responsibilities



This backgrounder on wildfires provides an overview of employer obligations related to emergency response planning, as well as ways to reduce exposure to wildfire smoke for indoor and outdoor workers. The backgrounder also provides links to several key WorkSafeBC resources related to wildfires.

Download PDF

Also available in: 中文(简体), 中文(繁體), ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

Publication Date: Jun 2025

File type: PDF (94 KB)

Share via Email (Anonymously)

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/about-us/news-and-events/backgrounders/wildfires?lang=en>

BC Forest Safety Council and ILA involvement

Industry wide education

Safety communications

BCFSC and ILA feedback

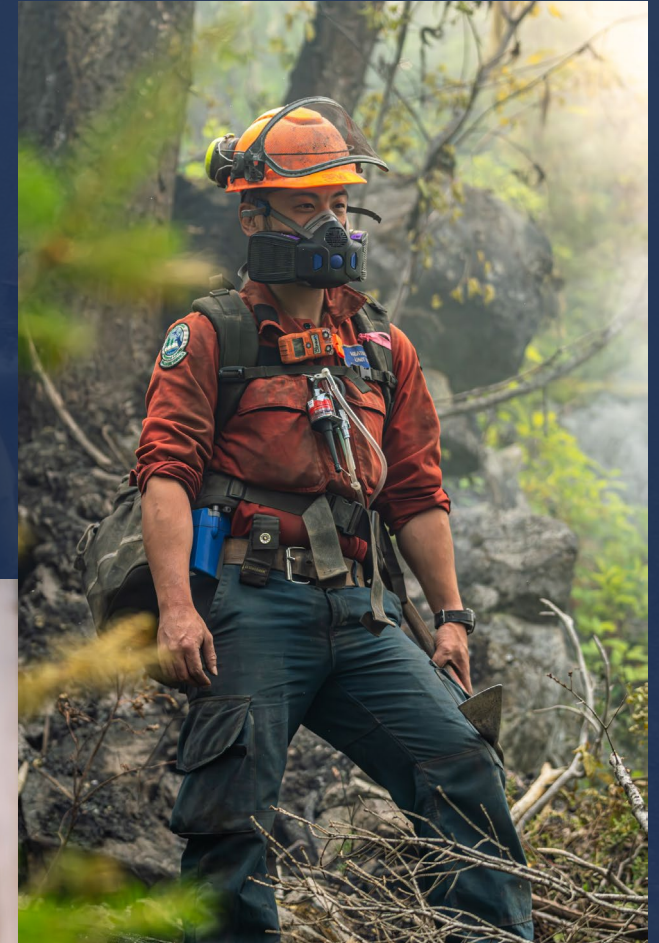


BCWS Total Worker Health

Occupational Athlete project

Respiratory protection and exposure

Camp Infrastructure



BCWS Total Worker Health

Mental Wellness and Resiliency Training

Early retirement for wildfire fighters

BCWS Mental Health Leadership Team

Mental Health for First Responders
provincial committee



Mental Health Supports in BCWS



CONNECTION TO CARE

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 8PM
778-247-2273 (CARE)



Your mental health and wellbeing matters.

Connection to Care is a phone service providing **free, anonymous, and confidential support** to local BC government workers and BC forestry workers

HOW DOES IT WORK?

IMMEDIATE SUPPORT	CONFIDENTIAL	CONNECTED
A well trained mental health professional will answer your call, provide you with the opportunity to share your struggles, and listen to your needs.	They will support you through compassionate enquiry and conversation. Conversations are 100% confidential so this means you can openly discuss your thoughts, concerns and feelings.	You will be connected to resources specific to your needs, or be redirected to a longer-term therapist.

BCWS Well-Being Hub

Your well-being matters. This space is here to support your mental, emotional, and psychological health. Explore the tools, support services, and resources available to help you and your team stay well.

[Counselling & Professional Support](#)

Access internal counselling, external services, and specialized support through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Critical Incident Stress Management, or the Safe Reporting Line.

[Mindfulness & Meditation](#)

Mindfulness for BCWS including live weekly meditations, training programs, and apps.

[Psychological Health and Safety Strategy](#)

Learn how BCWS is building a culture of psychological safety — and how you can take part in this organization-wide commitment.

[Resilience Tool Workshops](#)

These workshops navigate the different components of the Resilience Framework to help you make the most of the available services.

[Training & Courses](#)

Explore resilience and mental health training, including Resilient Minds and BCWS-specific workshops.

[Peer Support](#)

Connect with peers through the CISM team or informal networks. Peer support fosters early recognition of mental health challenges and a culture of care.

[Recovery Retreats](#)

Information about recovery retreats for staff impacted by cumulative or acute psychological stress during their employment.

[Resource Library](#)

Download posters, guides, and one-pagers on stress, recovery, crew wellness, and more.

THANK YOU.

Questions?



BC Wildfire
Service

