



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

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Wildfire Safety

AOM: 2023-05-19

The safest way to deal with wildfires is to prevent them from starting in the first place. If a fire does start on your worksite, being well trained and prepared can improve your response time which helps keep fires small and manageable.

Wildfire Safety Best Practices:

- Review your emergency response plans especially your communication methods. Conduct a fire drill and make sure everyone on site is ready and your worksite is properly equipped. Is your crew prepared to fight a fire even if the supervisor isn't there to direct them?
- Make the most of your annual wildfire training by accessing the latest wildfire safety information and firefighting tactics. Practice realistic scenarios and prepare your crew for the real thing.
- Monitor current weather conditions, and check the weather forecast and fire danger rating for your work area. Watch for strong winds, high temperatures and lightning and know your [responsibilities for shutting down early and having a fire watch.](#)
- Know your work area including the accessible water sources, alternate escape routes if main roads are blocked and the spots with good cell phone service.
- If you spot a fire or smoke report it to the Wildfire Service at *5555 or 1-800-663-5555 and provide:
 - the location using GPS coordinates or a direction and distance from a known landmark
 - the size and rate of spread
 - identify what is being threatened by the fire (people or buildings at risk)
 - identify if anyone is currently fighting the fire
- Know who else is working in your area and how they can be contacted during an emergency. Early action with a lot of people and resources can help keep fires under control.





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- Have the proper fire tools ready. [The regulation outlines the minimum requirements for equipment](#) but consider having more water or tools on site depending on your risk assessment.
- Consider how heavy equipment can be used: What type will be needed? Are there barriers to moving the equipment (soft ground, stream crossings, steep terrain, etc.)? How quickly can it be mobilized?
- Know when the fire is beyond your ability to control. If your fire fighting efforts are no longer safe, retreat to a safe location and stand by to support BC Wildfire Service crews. Update the change in fire behaviour to the BC Wildfire Service reporting line if their crews have not arrived on site.

Additional Resources:

- [BC Wildfire Service](#)
- [Wildfire Prevention for Industry and Commercial Operators](#)
- [Fire Danger Class Reports for Individual Weather Stations](#)
- [BC Wildfire YouTube Channel](#)
- [Fire Bans and Restrictions](#)



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BCFSC Bulletin - News and Updates

BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[New Online Training - Introduction to Dangerous Trees on Forestry Worksites](#)

Dangerous trees in forestry operations such as harvesting, silviculture and firefighting are high-risk hazards. If you work around dangerous trees - take this FREE course to help you understand the risks.

[New Video: ERP Equipment Rollover and Operator Extraction](#)

This video focuses on the importance of including extractions in Emergency Response Plans. It features a logging crew conducting an emergency extraction drill. It demonstrates the process and tools used for a crew-initiated extraction as well as a self-extraction done by the operator inside an over-turned cab.

[Operator Safety Training Fact Sheet](#) – The Wood Pellets Association of Canada (WPAC) and BCFSC have launched an industry-wide initiative that delivers a comprehensive digital e-learning safety training program for plant operators and supervisors across companies. Learn more by reading the Fact Sheet.

[BCFSC FIRS App](#) - Forest Industry Reporting System is a FREE resource available to all BCFSC Members. Learn more.

[June Forest Safety News](#) – summer edition, available May 30.

BCFSC Training:

Upcoming Classroom Training

June 2 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Campbell River](#)

This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

June 9 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Vernon](#)

This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

Refer to the [Training section of our website](#) for more information on upcoming classroom training and costs.

Online Training

Worker Assessment and Training

Each forestry occupation requires different knowledge and skillsets to perform the job at hand. BCFSC worked with industry to develop competency-based standards, training and assessment tools to help employers evaluate workers and complete on-the-job training.



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Check out our [FREE online training and assessment forms](#) for Basic Forest Workers, Yarding, Mechanized Harvesting and Road Building.