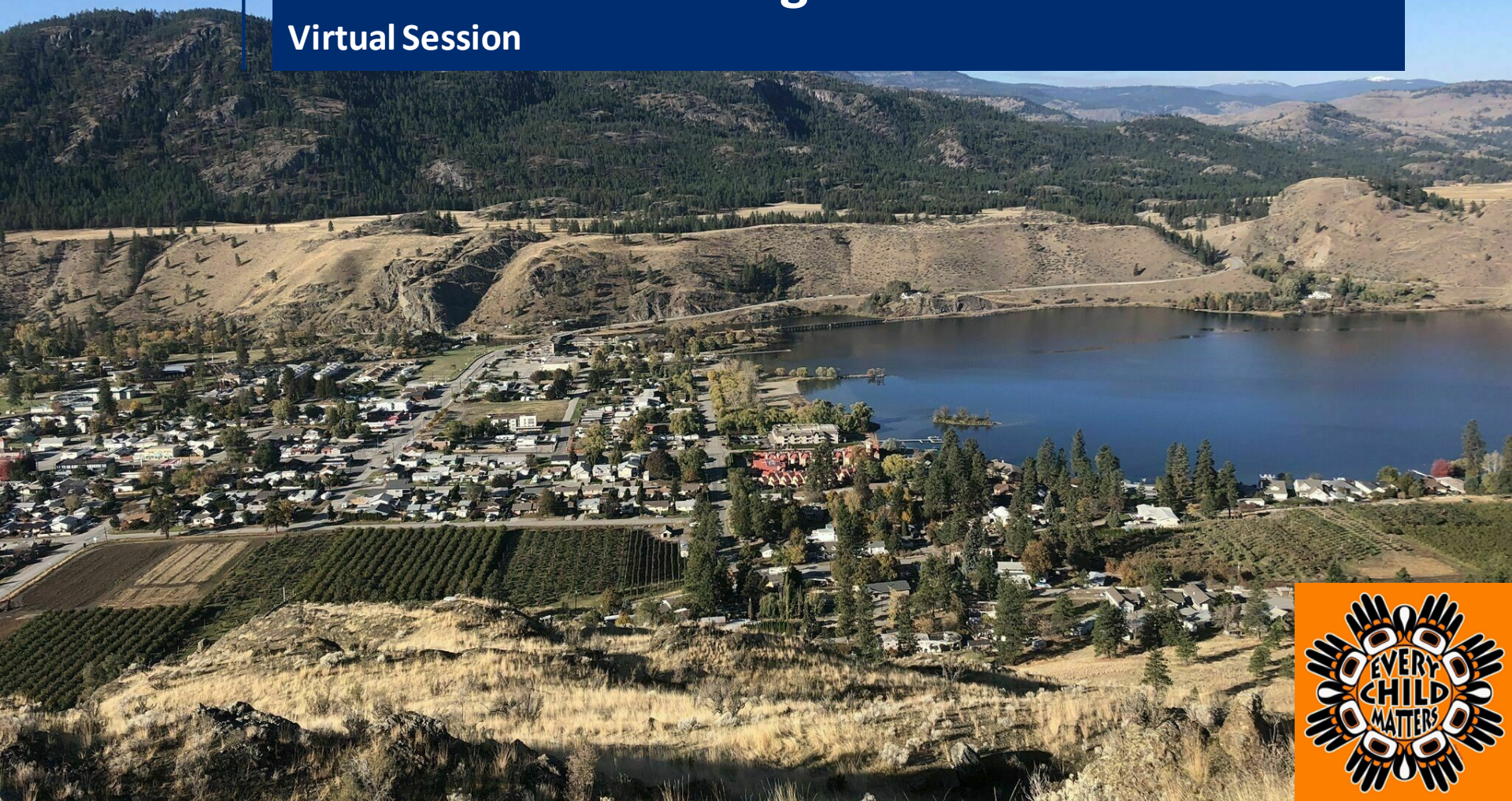




June 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

# Agriculture Wildfire Preparedness Information Exchange

Virtual Session



# Territorial Acknowledgment

I would like to acknowledge the land on which we live and are calling in from today is within the unceded, traditional lands of the Sylix Nation.





# Today's Speakers

Harmony Bjarnason - Climate & Agriculture Initiative BC (CAI)

Sean Vaisler - Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Rob Osiowy - Wildfire Officer, Penticton Fire Zone - BC Wildfire Service

*Paul Edmonds / Chris Marsh - Red Dragon Consulting*

*John Davies – Frontline Operations Group*

*Chris Zabek – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*

*Support for this project has been provided by:*





# How to participate and ask questions

- This is an interactive session. The project team wants to hear your questions, comments and experiences.
- Ask questions in the chat box.
- After each speaker, there will be opportunities to ask questions.
- This webinar will be recorded.



## Project Background: *How did we get here?*

2-year project to enhance RDOS communications efforts to agriculture producers during wildfire events

- Started Spring 2020, continues through 2021





# Project Activities

## Wildfire Pre-Season Communications and Information Exchange Project

Ongoing/Annual	Emergency
Spring information exchange (annual) and fall debrief (after significant wildfire season)	Training and incorporating Agricultural Liaison Officer Assistants into the EOC
Agriculture Wildfire Preparedness Bulletin	Using multi-layered communication channels to reach producers (Civic-ready, phone calls, Liaison Assistants) – NEW system coming soon!
Promoting farm level preparedness planning	Increasing communication with producers (e.g. through Liaison Assistants)
Promoting sign-up to RDOS Civic-Ready	Clearly defining the process to apply for a re-entry permit to perform essential agricultural activities (during an evacuation order)



# Agenda

- BC Wildfire Service
  - Wildfire Outlook for 2021
  - BCWS State of readiness and resources
  - Mitigation activities
- Regional District Okanagan Similkameen
  - Planned mitigation activities: FireSmart and fuel treatment
  - Communications
    - RDOS website / Civic Ready (mass notification system)
    - Agricultural Wildfire Preparedness Bulletin
    - Pre-season Information Exchange / Fall Debrief
    - FireSmart – RDOS Coordinator & more!
- What happens during an emergency: roles and responsibilities
  - Evacuation stages: Alert, Order, Rescind
    - Re-entry permit process
  - Government level roles and responsibilities
  - Farm producer roles and responsibilities
- Farm level preparedness resources
- Agricultural Liaison Officer Assistants in the EOC



# Questions before we start?



Christie Mountain Wildfire. August 2020. Photo by Douglas Drouin. Courtesy of Penticton Western News.

Next up: Rob Osiowy (BC Wildfire Service)

# 2021 Penticton Fire Zone

## Fire preparedness

*Kamloops Fire Centre*



**BC** Wildfire  
Service



# About the BC Wildfire Service



The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) is mandated to:

- Deliver effective wildfire management and emergency response support
- Protect life and values at risk
- Encourage sustainable, healthy, and resilient ecosystems



# Types of BCWS Firefighting Crews

For the 2021 fire season, the BC Wildfire Service employed 1,043 Type 1 firefighters, including:

<b>Initial Attack Crews – Penticton zone has 7 – 3 person crews.</b>	<b>3-person crews</b> that are used for quick response and are typically the first crews dispatched to a fire by truck or helicopter
<b>Unit Crews- Penticton zone currently does not have this resource/Merritt zone has 3 UCs.</b>	<b>20-person crews</b> that respond to larger fires that require more than initial attack resources
<b>Rapattack (Rappel Attack) Crews</b>	specialized crews that use <b>helicopters</b> and rope rappelling techniques to descend into remote areas and suppress fires
<b>Parattack (Parachute Attack) Crews</b>	specialized crews that <b>parachute out of fixed-wing aircraft</b> , typically to respond to fires in remote areas that are inaccessible by ground and potentially out of helicopter range

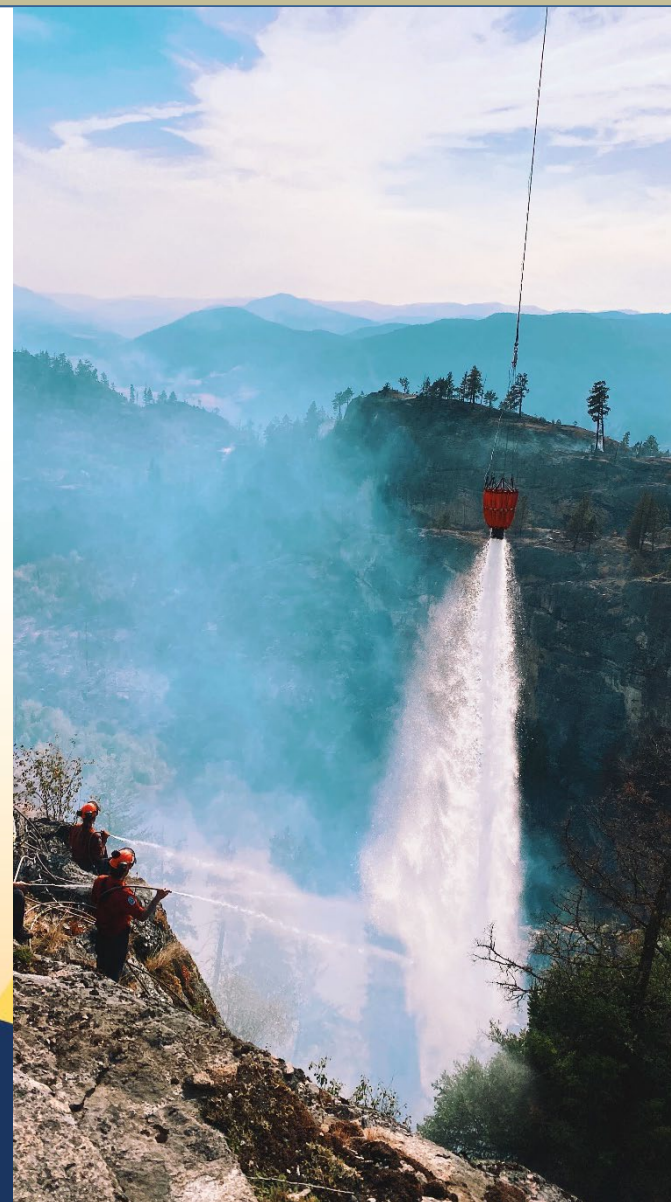
# Okanagan Statistics

From April 1, 2020 to March, 31, 2021



	K4 (Vernon)	K5 (Penticton)
Total number of wildfires (2019)	32	50
Total number of wildfire (2020)	35	39
*Lightning Caused	15	6
*Human Caused	20	32
Area Burned (2019)	7 hectares	3,665 hectares
Area Burned (2020)	72 hectares	2,175 hectares

*\*The sum of lightning-caused and human-caused fires may not equal the total number of fires, due to inconclusive fire cause findings.*





# Mt. Christie Fire - August 2020

- 320 homes evacuated in Heritage hills
- 3700 residences on expanded evacuation alert for 6 days
- Added stress with COVID-19 complications for responders and residents





# Prescribed Fire



# Ongoing Partnerships

- Crater Mountain Prescribed Burn
  - *Collaboration with Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Okanagan Nation Alliance, and FLNRORD through BCWS and District of the Okanagan Shuswap.*
  - *Phase 2 (1,100 ha) ready for implementation in 2021.*
- Munro Prescribed Fire project in partnership with DOS and Penticton Indian Band near Peachland.



*BCWS and Skul'qalt Forestry LP working on the Crater Mt. Prescribed Fire Project*







# Provincial Funding Programs








# Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program

- FireSmart Community Funding Supports (FSCFS)
  - Project on Federal Reserve lands Intake opens in summer – closes early fall
    - applications reviewed by FNESS
- Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR)
  - Funding support for fuels on provincial lands
    - Based on risk class and Wildland Urban Interface
    - Partnerships
    - Fuels management – risk class



# Strategic Priorities

A photograph of a forest fire scene. Tall, dark evergreen trees are in the foreground and background. In the mid-ground, several firefighters in yellow and red gear are working. A large plume of white smoke rises from the ground, partially obscuring the trees. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The ground is covered in dark, charred wood and debris.

Building strong relationships with our partners that promote transparency, trust, and collaboration is a priority for BCWS and the Kamloops Fire Centre.



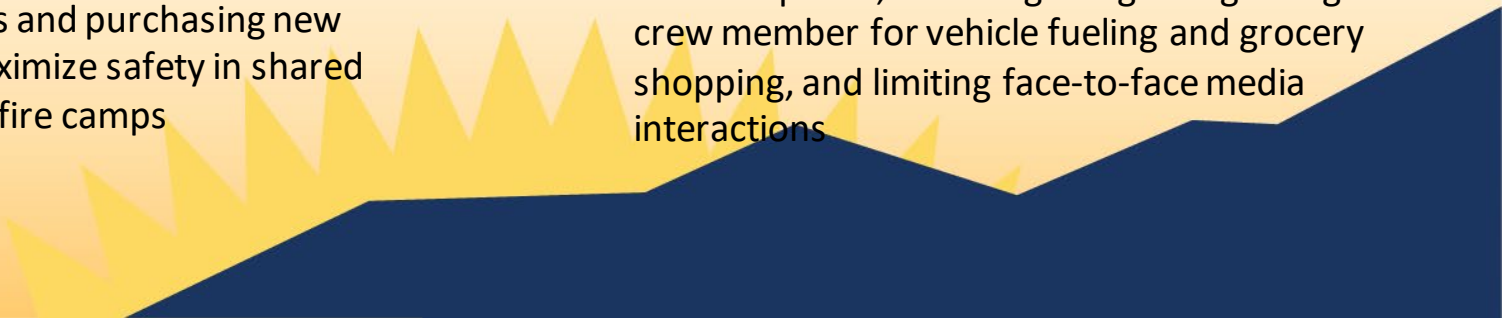
# COVID-19 Impact and Adaptation

- COVID-19 made firefighting more challenging, but safety measures proved successful in B.C.
- In March, BCWS established a **Business Adaptation and Continuity** team to anticipate and mitigate as many related risks as possible before the wildfire season began.
- The mental health of personnel has been and continues to be a priority.
- Adapting to COVID-19 is an ongoing task.
- Lessons learned will be assessed for future fire seasons.



# COVID-19 Impact and Adaptation

## Processes and protocols created or adapted included:

- limiting access to communal areas in all workplaces and modifying workstations to accommodate physical distancing
  - implementing work-from-home protocols for all staff aside from fire response personnel who are required on site
  - prohibiting all Category 2 and Category 3 open fires provincewide to lower the potential for human-caused wildfires and to minimize smoke
  - creating protocols and purchasing new equipment to maximize safety in shared spaces, including fire camps
  - offering annual training to small regional groups, instead of to large groups at provincial sessions
  - modifying vehicle and aviation safety protocols
  - implementing best practices for handling physical documentation and equipment
  - moving face-to-face meetings to virtual formats
  - distributing guidelines for employee interactions with the public, including designating a single crew member for vehicle fueling and grocery shopping, and limiting face-to-face media interactions
- 



# Information Sources

## BCWS Website – [bcwildfire.ca](http://bcwildfire.ca)

Easy-to-access information including:

- Interactive wildfire map
- Wildfires of note
- Current wildfire activity
- Information bulletins
- Fire bans and restrictions
- Career opportunities
- More

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Home > Public Safety & Emergency Services >

### Wildfire Service

Update: BC FireSmart Manual  
Learn about the FireSmart program and identify changes you can make to help protect your home and neighbourhood from wildfire.  
[Download now!](#)

Search Wildfire Service  
Enter a keyword or phrase to search

#### Popular Resources

- Wildfires of Note**  
Find the latest information on wildfires that are particularly visible or pose a threat to public safety.
- Interactive Wildfire Map**  
View the location and details of all active wildfires in B.C., as well as Fire Centre boundaries.
- Emergency Info BC**  
B.C.'s hub for disaster information, from evacuation alerts and orders to response and recovery resources.

#### Fire Danger Rating

British Columbia Wildfire Service

Fire danger ratings indicate how easily fires can start and spread in an area.

[View Fire Danger Ratings](#)

#### Contact Us

**Report a wildfire:**  
1 800 663-5555 or \*5555 on a cell

9:58

Search for location

Menu

BC Wildfire Service

Latest News

Advisories

Current Stats

Notifications

Help

Disclaimer

Report a Fire

Feedback

Version: 1.2.0 SNAPSHOT

9:58

← Latest News

Tweets by @BCGovFireInfo

BC Wildfire Service @BCGovFireInfo

Replying to @BCGovFireInfo

For further details on changes made to the dashboard (as well as information on features, map layers and wildfire statistics), refer to the #BCWildfire Service Interactive Map Reference Guide: [ow.ly/zRz30qy8aW](#) (2/2)

BC Wildfire Service @BCGovFireInfo

#BCWildfire Service has made some changes to the B.C. Wildfire Dashboard ([ow.ly/VDy030qy7WC](#)). The dashboard is designed to provide real-time, consistent, accurate and timely wildfire information to the public, media and stakeholders. (1/2)

## Other BCWS Information Sources

- Official BCWS mobile app
- Facebook (BC Forest Fire Info)
- Twitter (@BCGovFireInfo)
- Wildfire information hotline  
1 888 336-7378 (3FOREST)

## Report a Wildfire

- 1800 663-5555 (\*5555 on cell phone)

# Upcoming Engagement Sessions with BCWS

- Annual pre-season planning, and engagement sessions will be held by each zone in the Spring.
- What topics would you like to cover?  
Let us know.







Wildfire near Giselle BC (May 31<sup>st</sup> )  
Picture Courtesy of BCWS Airtanker Program

# Wildfire Seasonal Outlook Update



# Contents

1. May Statistics from Environment Canada
2. Wildfire Season 2021 update
3. Fuel Dryness
4. Snow Pack
5. Environment Canada seasonal forecast
6. Summary



# May Climate Statistics

## from Environment and Climate Change Canada

2021	May				
	Precip	Nomal Precip	Precip % of Norm	Drier Than, Normal, Wetter Than	Precip Rank
Victoria	15.2	37.5	40.50%	Drier	12
Victoria Gonzales	20.8	25.8	80.60%	Drier	52
Nanaimo (YCD)	21.5	54.3	39.60%	Drier	25
Comox (YQQ)	35	45.6	76.80%	Normal	51
Campbell River (YBL)	34.8	68.4	50.90%	Drier	21
Vancouver	30.2	65	46.40%	Drier	26
Abbotsford	48.4	99.8	48.50%	Drier	15
Penticton (YYF)	9.1	39.3	23.20%	Drier	11
Kelowna	3.5	40.2	8.70%	Drier	1
Vernon (WJV)	10.1	47.8	21.10%	Drier	4
Cranbrook	23.3	46.1	50.60%	Drier	34
Quesnel (VQZ)	46	42.6	108.00%	Normal	30
Williams Lake (YWL)	43.3	39.1	110.70%	Normal	20
Prince George	57.2	49	116.70%	Wetter	22
Kamloops	5.8	27.3	21.30%	Drier	13
Sandspit (YZP)	59.4	66.4	89.50%	Normal	50
Prince Rupert (YPR)	118.9	137.6	86.40%	Normal	51
Terrace	63	56.4	111.70%	Normal	25
Smithers (YYD)	21.6	38.1	56.70%	Drier	21
Dease Lake (YDL)	33.4	33.7	99.10%	M	M
Chetwynd (YCQ)	M	37.2	M	M	M
Fort St. John	37.9	37.9	99.90%	Normal	50
Fort Nelson (YYE)	36.3	49	74.10%	Drier	40
Watson Lake (YQH)	40.3	37.4	107.60%	Wetter	18

2021	May				
	2021 Temp	Temp Norm	Temp Anomaly	Colder Than, Normal, Warmer Than	Temp Rank
Victoria	12.5	12.1	0.4	Normal	28
Victoria Gonzales	12	12.1	-0.1	Normal	56
Nanaimo (YCD)	12.6	12.5	0.1	Normal	45
Comox (YQQ)	12.9	12.4	0.5	Warmer	25
Campbell River (YBL)	11.8	11.6	0.2	Normal	22
Vancouver	12.4	12.8	-0.4	Normal	70
Abbotsford	12.9	13	-0.1	Normal	47
Penticton (YYF)	13.8	13.9	-0.1	Normal	66
Kelowna	13.8	13.98	-0.2	Normal	36
Vernon (WJV)	13.9	13.1	0.8	Warmer	30
Cranbrook	10.9	11.3	-0.4	Normal	53
Quesnel (VQZ)	10.3	11.1	-0.8	Colder	38
Williams Lake (YWL)	M	9.6	M	M	M
Prince George	9.7	10.1	-0.4	Normal	36
Kamloops	14.4	14.6	-0.2	Normal	55
Sandspit (YZP)	9.2	9.4	-0.2	Normal	38
Prince Rupert (YPR)	9.3	9	0.3	Normal	46
Terrace	10	10.6	-0.6	Normal	39
Smithers (YYD)	9.2	9.4	-0.2	Normal	41
Dease Lake (YDL)	6	6.7	-0.7	Colder	M
Chetwynd (YCQ)	9.8	9.5	0.3	Normal	27
Fort St. John	10.3	9.8	0.5	Normal	34
Fort Nelson (YYE)	10.5	9.7	0.8	Warmer	31
Watson Lake (YQH)	6.3	7.6	-1.3	Colder	20

'M' values indicate missing data

# Accumulated Precipitation – March to May

## Environment and Climate Change Canada



The Southern half of the Province received significantly less precipitation than normal. Many areas have seen less than 40% of normal precipitation.

Kelowna, Vernon, and Kamloops are of particular concern, having seen 20% or less of their normal rainfall. Kelowna and Vernon have set new record low spring precipitation totals with records going back as far as 1904 for Vernon.

Average spring temperatures were near normal for most of the province.

MAM 2021	Temp	Normal Temp	Temp Anomaly	Colder Than, Normal, Warmer Than	Temp Rank	Precip	Normal Precip	Precip % of Norm	Drier Than, Normal, Wetter Than	Precip Rank	Precip POR	Lowest Monthly Total Precip	Year
Victoria	9.4	9.3	0.1	Normal	22	53.1	164.4	32.30%	Drier	1	1941	54.8	1973
Victoria Gonzales	9.8	10	-0.1	Normal	75	82.8	112.4	73.70%	Drier	26	1899	46.5	1973
Nanaimo (YCD)	9.5	9.2	0.3	Normal	31	74.7	231.9	32.20%	Drier	4	1893	44.4	1924
Comox (YQQ)	9.7	9.1	0.6	Warmer	16	146.8	215.3	68.20%	Drier	18	1895	74	2019
Campbell River (YBL)	8.2	8.3	0	Normal	39	160.2	300.9	53.20%	Drier	6	1936	116.9	2019
Vancouver	9.5	9.7	-0.2	Normal	80	102.7	267.4	38.40%	Drier	3	1896	74.3	1924
Abbotsford	10	10	0	Normal	22	146.8	368.2	39.90%	Drier	1	1945	194.1	1956
Penticton (YYF)	9.5	9.3	0.2	Normal	31	29.4	88.8	33.10%	Drier	5	1908	6.8	1924
Kelowna	9.5	8.5	1	Warmer	9	13.5	86	15.70%	Drier	1	1969	43.3	2019
Vernon (WJV)	9.5	8.6	0.9	Warmer	12	17.8	95.5	18.60%	Drier	1	1904	28.9	1924
Cranbrook	6.8	6.6	0.2	Normal	25	41.7	94.3	44.20%	Drier	10	1902	6.1	1924
Quesnel (VQZ)	6	6.2	-0.2	Normal	71	99.5	92.6	107.50%	Normal	31	1894	35.8	1985
Williams Lake (YWL)	M	4.9	M	M	M	80.1	79.2	101.20%	Normal	28	1961	39.9	1970
Prince George	5.1	5	0.1	Normal	22	111.4	114.5	97.30%	Normal	43	1943	58.8	2019
Kamloops	10.1	9.9	0.2	Normal	35	10.3	54.2	19.00%	Drier	2	1891	5.8	1901
Sandspit (YZP)	6.8	6.9	-0.1	Normal	40	266.6	288.3	92.50%	Normal	48	1939	110.2	2019
Prince Rupert (YPR)	6.5	6.6	-0.1	Normal	58	749.4	515.3	145.40%	Wetter	5	1909	153.9	1935
Terrace	6	6.4	-0.5	Normal	39	327.6	224.5	146.00%	Wetter	5	1913	59.2	1963
Smithers (YYD)	5.3	4.8	0.5	Normal	17	54.7	83.3	65.70%	Drier	13	1938	28.1	1938
Dease Lake (YDL)	-0.3	M	M	M	M	106.1	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Chetwynd (YQC)	4.4	3.7	0.8	Warmer	17	M	82.4	M	M	M	1971	22.1	1973
Fort St. John	3.4	3	0.3	Normal	25	67.3	81.8	82.30%	Drier	23	1943	20.6	1945
Fort Nelson (YYE)	1.1	1.7	-0.6	Normal	40	91.2	85.4	106.80%	Normal	35	1938	23.3	1985
Watson Lake (YQH)	-2.4	-0.6	-1.8	Colder	15	66	65.8	100.20%	Normal	35	1939	8.5	2019
Whitehorse (YXY)	-0.6	0.7	-1.3	Colder	25	55.7	33.8	164.80%	Wetter	11	1943	10.6	1993
Burwash (YDB)	-4.3	-2.2	-2.2	Colder	8	63.1	38.6	163.40%	Wetter	6	1967	13.7	1980
Faro (ZFA)	-2	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Mayo (YMA)	-2.9	0.2	-3	Colder	15	51.3	41.6	123.30%	Wetter	22	1926	14	1948
Dawson City (WON)	-3	-1.3	-1.7	Colder	49	M	47.5	M	M	M	1902	12.4	1947
Old Crow (YOC)	-9.6	-9.5	-0.1	Normal	31	42.9	45.6	94.10%	Normal	31	1953	7.1	1969



# Wildfire Season 2021 update



BC Wildfire  
Service

## Wildfire Season 2021 June 4th

275 Wildfires

2301 Ha Burnt

## Average Number of Wildfires until June 4th

	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year	20 Year	25 Year
BC	252	246	266	282	275

## Average Area Burned (Ha) until June 4th

	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year	20 Year	25 Year
BC	28 035	19 495	14 092	12 048	9 870

Although BC has had more wildfires than the historical average, the average size of wildfires has been lower.

# Wildfire Season 2021 update



BC Wildfire  
Service

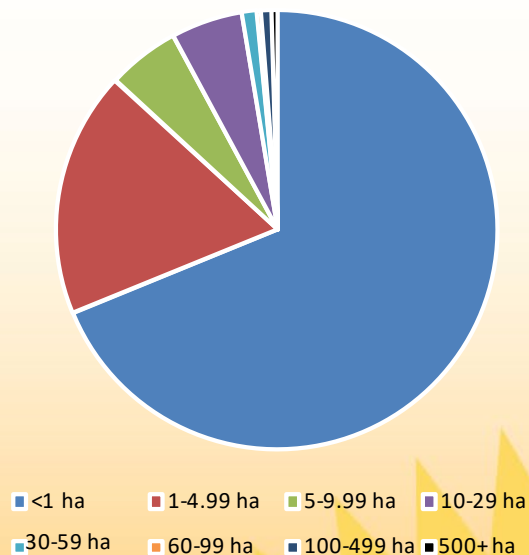


- Currently there are 275 wildfires and 2,301 hectares burnt (as of June 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Most wildfires have been in open fuel types on south facing slopes.
- As we progress into June, green up will continue across the province acting to moderate fire behaviour and keep fires relatively small.
- Early season fires are driven by high winds, a few dry days and fine fuels.

# Fire Size and Number of Fires

- To date, the vast majority of fires in 2021 have been less than 5 hectares, burning in flashy fuels or in grass.

2021 Fires by Size to May 31



## Number and Size of Fires by Month for 2021

	Number	Size
April	151	2022.29
May	114	152.02
Total	266	2174.31

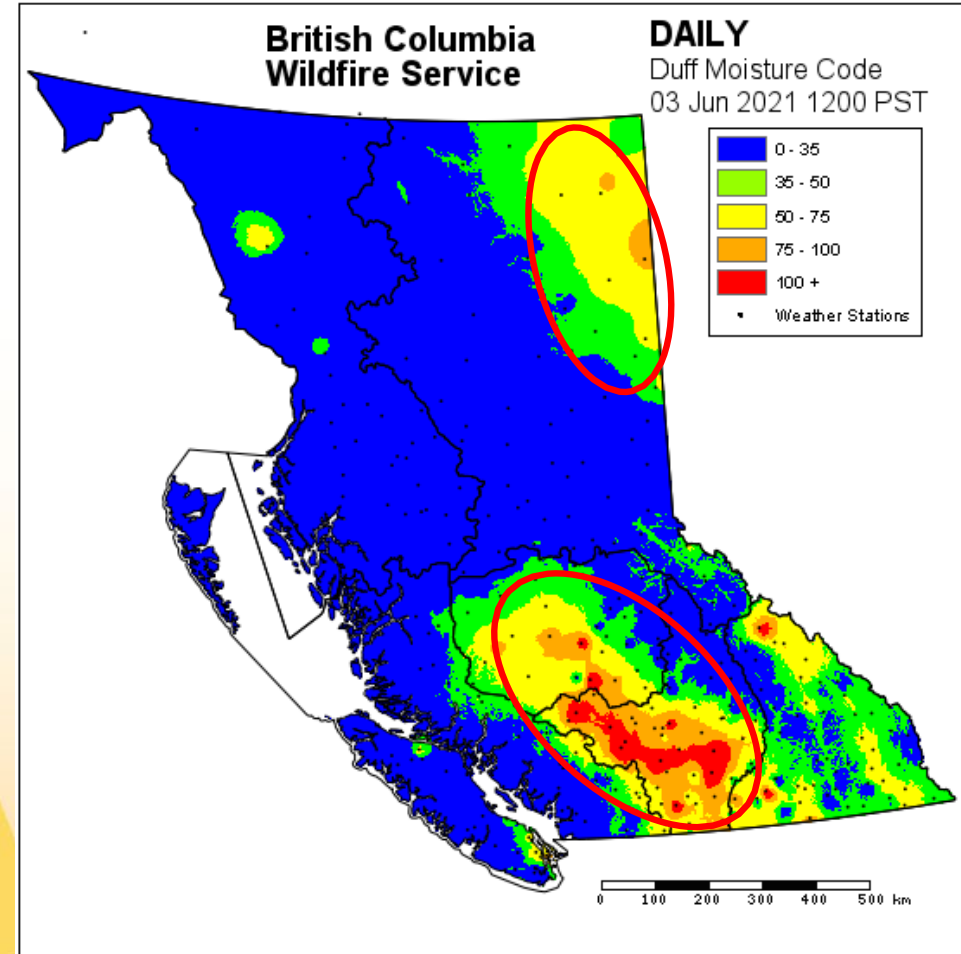
- The effect of green-up on grass fuels, cooler temperatures and some precipitation resulted in fewer fires in May and a much smaller overall area that was burned.



# Fuel Dryness – Drought Code DMC



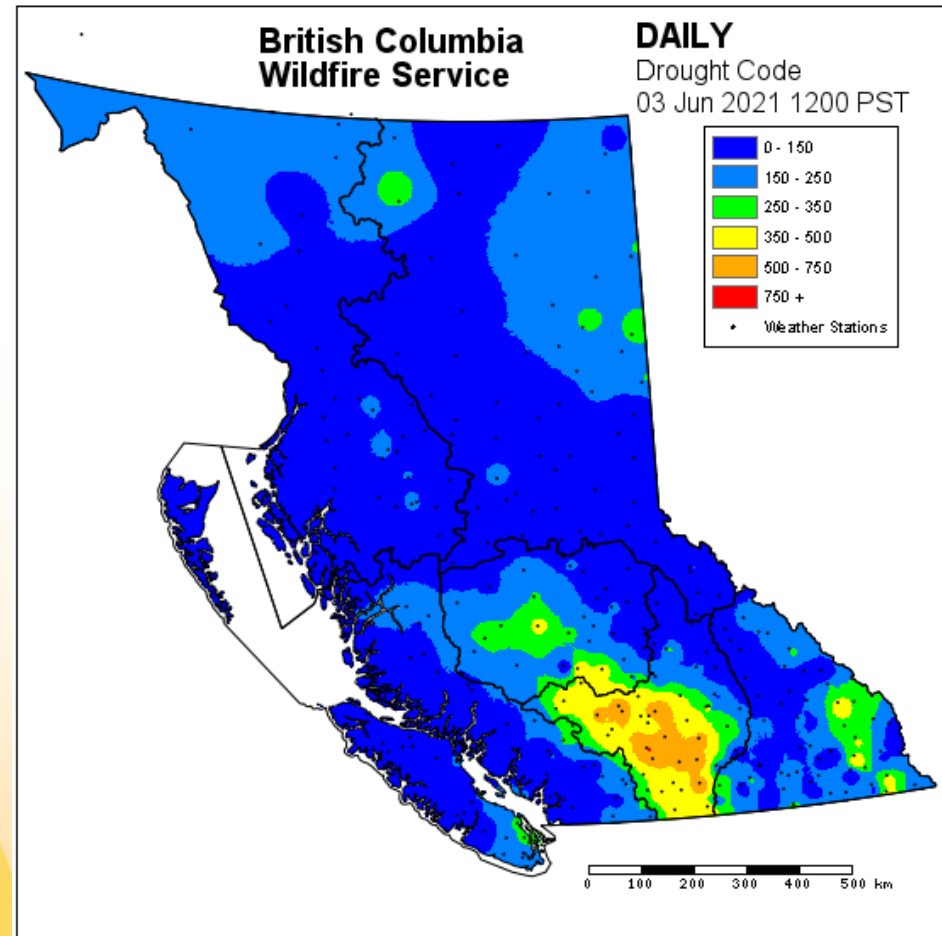
- The DMC is near or exceeded record levels in the Okanagan, particularly in the areas surrounding Kamloops, Vernon, and Kelowna.
- Indices are rising in the NE part of the province, as well as the East Kootenays.
- The DMC is a useful indicator of the likelihood of sustained burning from a lightning strike. It also has a strong influence on fire intensity.



# Fuel Dryness – Drought Code (DC)



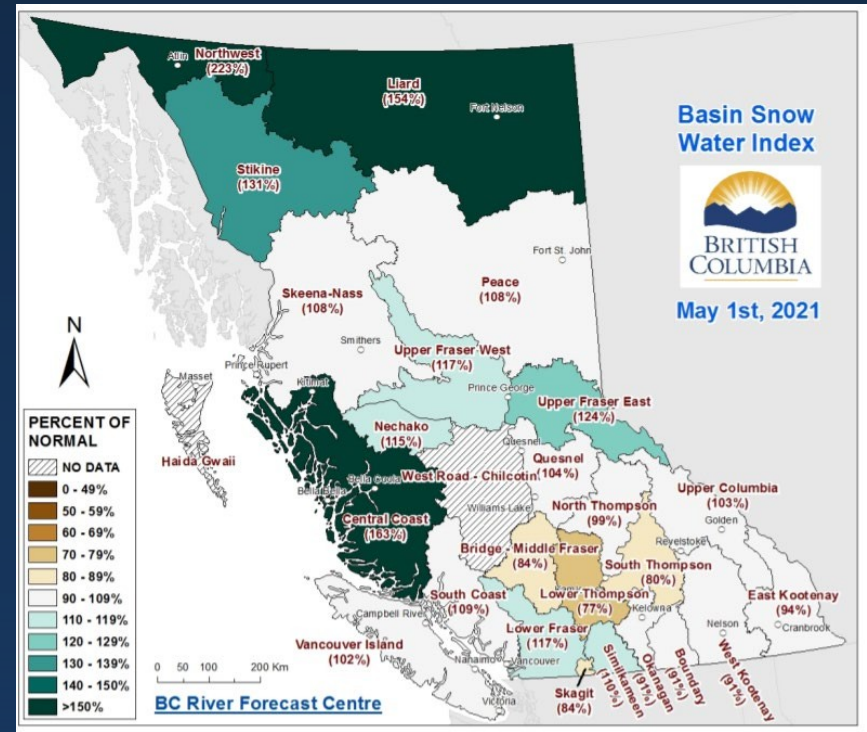
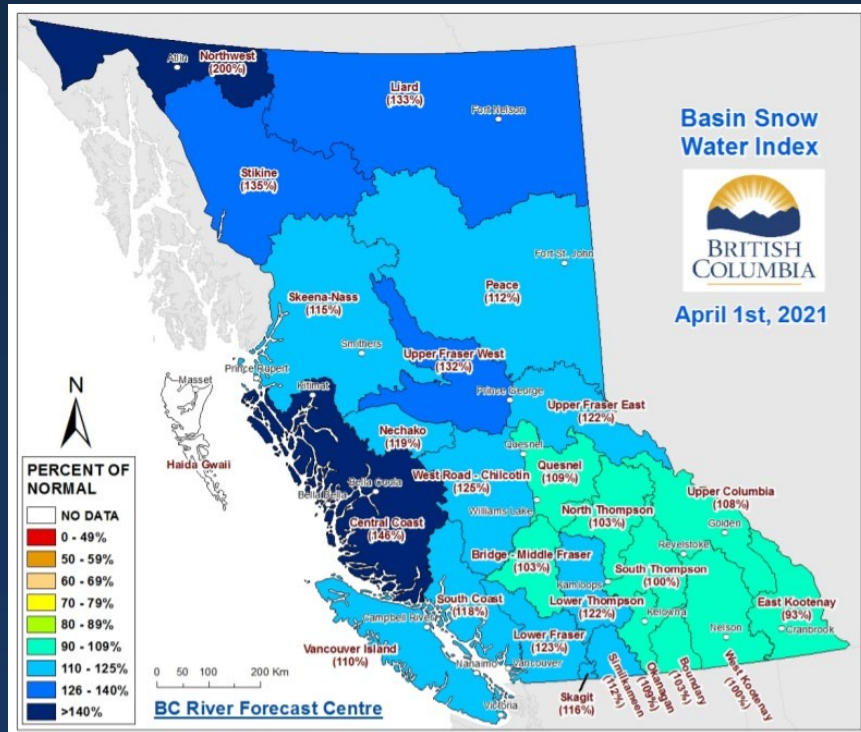
- Similar to the DMC, the main area of concern is the Okanagan. The DC in the Okanagan is in the top 90th percentile for this time of year.
- Lower elevation stations in the SE fire centre are also nearing the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for early June.
- The Drought Code (DC) is a numeric rating of the average moisture content of deep, compact organic layers. This code is a useful indicator of seasonal drought effects on forest fuels and the amount of smoldering in deep duff layers and large logs.



# BC River Forecast Centre Basin Snow Water Index Maps



Near normal temperatures throughout the province have led to a relatively slow melt and a decreased risk of flooding.



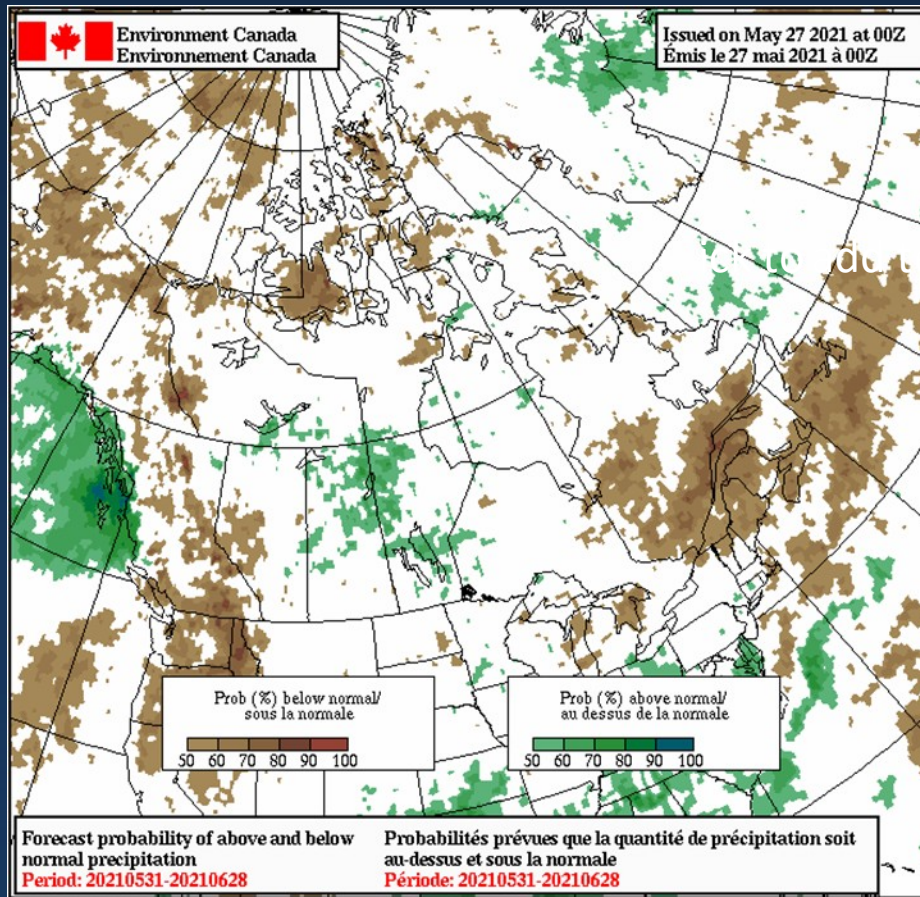


# Forecast (next 4 weeks)

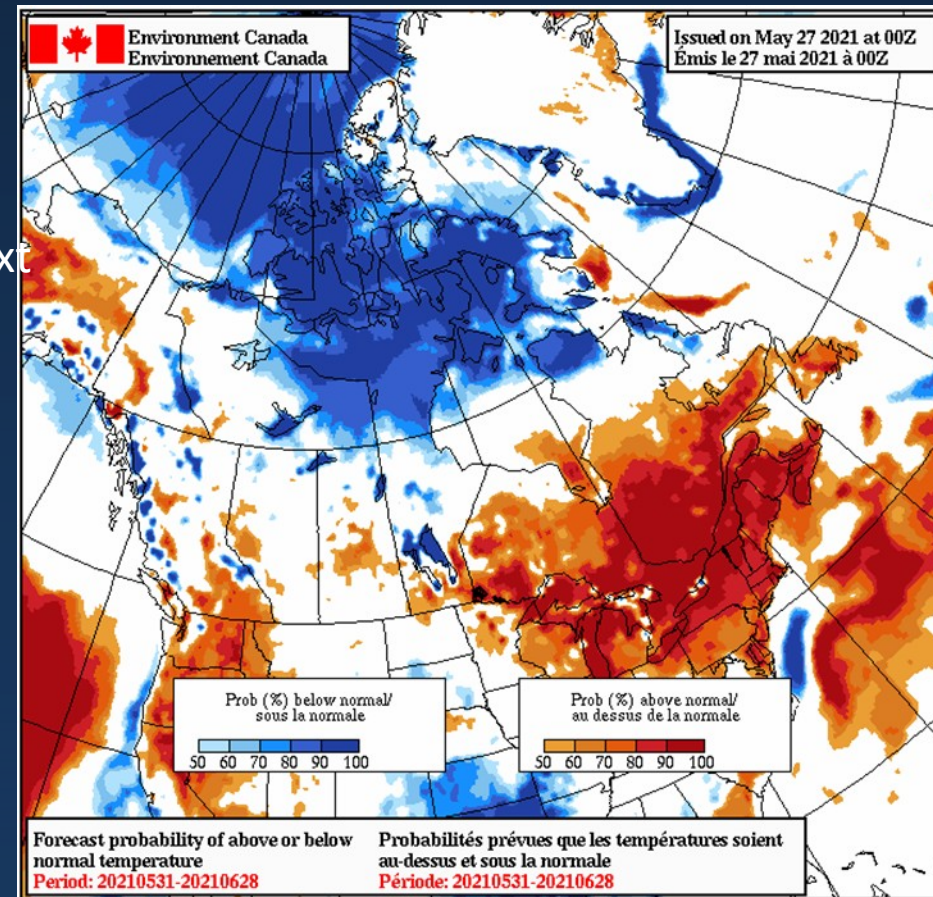
## May 30 – June 28



Precipitation – Forecast models suggest moderate chances (brown hues) of drier than normal conditions for most of the Interior and South Coast of BC during June.



Temperature – Models show a moderate likelihood of warmer than normal conditions through June for the southeast corner of BC. There is no clear signal for the rest of the province (areas in white).

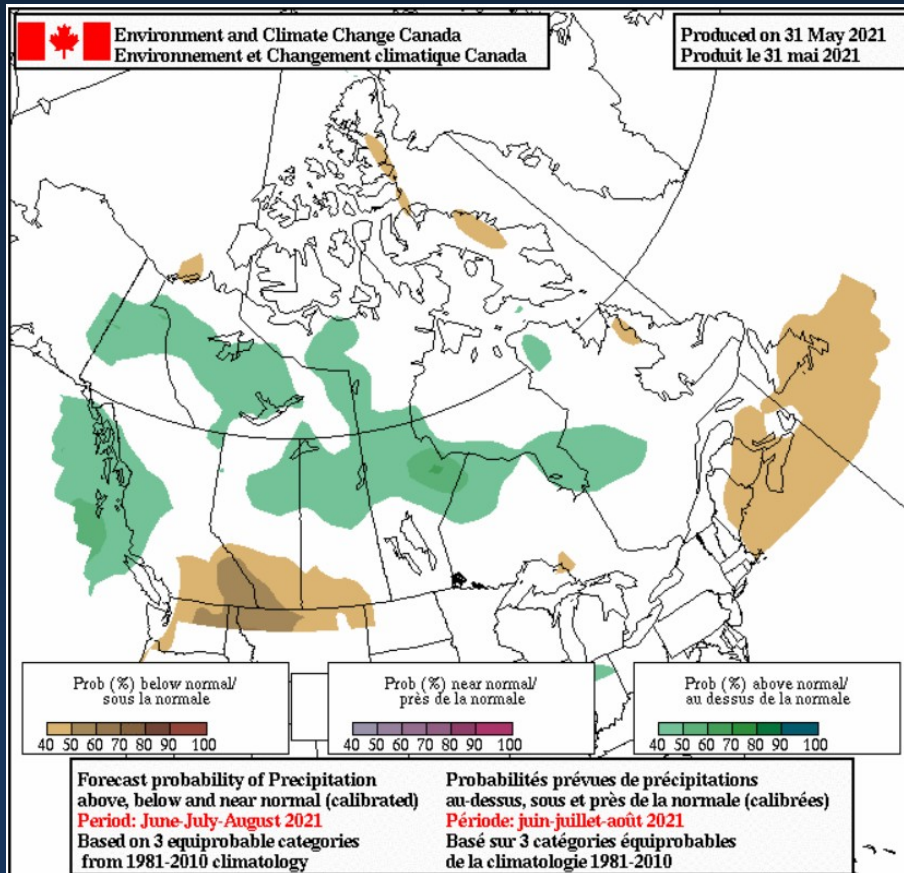




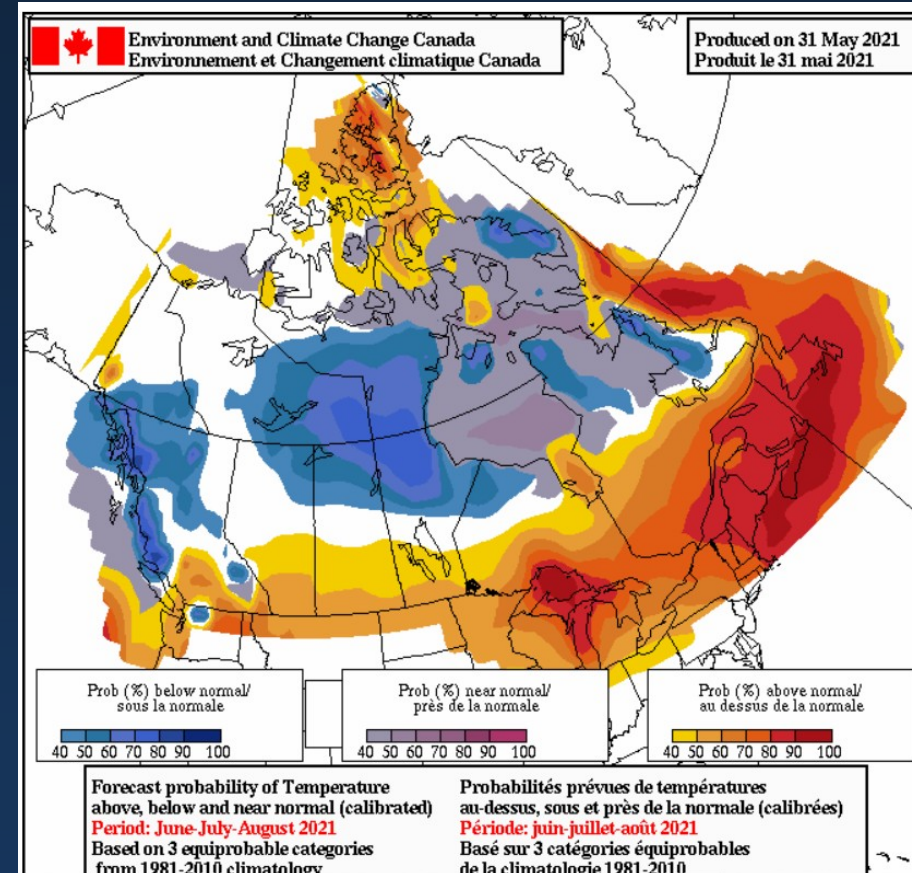
# Seasonal Outlook June-July-August



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA



**Precipitation**— The longer-range outlook also indicates the likelihood of a drier than normal summer for southeastern BC.



**Temperature**— There is a fair chance of a warmer than normal summer for the southern third of BC. Meanwhile the northwestern corner might experience cooler than normal conditions.

Visit this [site](#) for the latest model run.

# Summary



- The southern Interior has received significantly less precipitation than normal through this spring.
- The dry, warm pattern is expected to persist in the South Thompson and Okanagan which is reflected by increasing DMC values.
- Wildfire starts and fire behaviour should be moderated by the green up effect on the forest and grass fuel.
- The potential for an active wildfire season will in large part be determined by June precipitation patterns.



# Contact Information - Zones



## **K5 – Penticton Zone**

Robert Osiowy

778 622-6935

[robert.osiowy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:robert.osiowy@gov.bc.ca)

Kim Janowsky

778 661-0602

[Kim.janowsky@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kim.janowsky@gov.bc.ca)



# Questions?



# RDOS Emergency Management

*Sean Vaisler & Anne Benn, RDOS*

- Planned FireSmart activities
  - Chipping days, FireSmart Community Events, Neighborhood Plans, Rebate Program, and Fuel Treatment Projects
- Communications
  - RDOS website
  - Civic Ready
  - Agriculture Preparedness Bulletin
  - Pre-season Information Exchange / Fall debrief
  - RDOS new FireSmart Coordinator





# RDOS Emergency Management

## FireSmart and Wildfire Mitigation

- Current FireSmart Program
  - Overview of 2021 Grant
- Current and recent projects
  - South Okanagan-Similkameen Wildfire Advisory Working Group
  - Community Assessment ( Apex, Olalla and Hedley)
- Other wildfire mitigation plans
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plans (since 2007)
  - FireSmart Community Program ( since 2016)
  - Prescriptions and Treatments ( Regional)

# Where can I find information?


For emergency notifications please visit the RDOS Website for current information

[Emergency.rdos.bc.ca](https://Emergency.rdos.bc.ca)

## Social Media

Twitter: @EmergMgmtRDOS

Facebook: @RegionalDistrictOfOkanaganSimilkameen

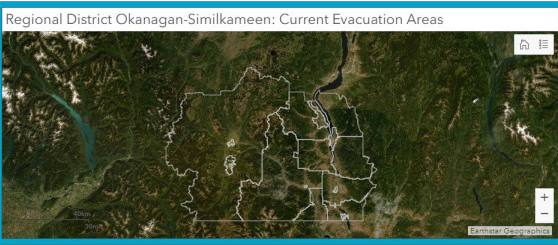


**Emergency Operations Centre**

[Latest Updates](#)
[Interactive Map](#)
[Be Prepared](#)
[Notifications](#)
[Resources](#)
[Contact](#)

### Interactive Map

[Sandbag Location Map](#)
[Download Our Data](#)




**Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen: Current Evacuation Areas**

**Current Evacuation:**  
Click a name on this list to pan the map to the Evacuation

**No Current Evacuations**

Evacuation List: [info](#)

Last updated: a few seconds ago



**Emergency Operations Centre**

[Latest Updates](#)
[Interactive Map](#)
[Be Prepared](#)
[Notifications](#)
[Resources](#)
[Contact](#)

### Latest Updates

**Naramata FireSmart chipping event June 5, 2021**

One of the easiest ways to protect your property from wildfire is to clear away branches and woody debris that can act as fire fuel.

[Please click here for event details.](#)

### Prepare for Spring freshet

Property owners are reminded to take appropriate measures to protect their property and buildings from potential rising waters and drainage issues. Taking proactive measures and assessing property and buildings for drainage issues before freshet begins is a proactive measure residents can take to help prevent or minimize potential damage. Now is the time to prepare if you live in vulnerable areas, on or near floodplains, or if you have experienced spring flooding previously. Report flooding or depleted sand or sandbags to the EOC. Please see the links below for current information about freshest conditions in the region.


- [Spring Flooding Response – COVID-19 Guidelines](#)
- [Video: How to sandbag your property](#)
- [Video: Sandbagging and COVID-19 precautions](#)
- [Environment and Climate Change Canada: latest weather conditions](#)
- [RDOS Emergency Operations Centre \(EOC\): latest updates and emergency preparedness](#)
- [River Forecast Centre: current snowpack conditions and water supply](#)
- [PreparedBC: understand and prepare for hazards such as flooding and wildfires](#)
- [EmergencyInfoBC: active during partial and full-scale provincial emergencies; official response and recovery sources, as well as verified event information from trusted partners](#)

### Prepare now for spring freshet before flooding occurs

Now is the time to assess your property and buildings for potential drainage issues. Taking proactive measures before freshet begins can help prevent or minimize damage.

[Information Release](#)


Do you have an emergency plan?



**Emergency Operations Centre**

[Latest Updates](#)
[Interactive Map](#)
[Be Prepared](#)
[Notifications](#)
[Resources](#)
[Contact](#)


### COVID-19 resources



**Interactive Map**

Current Emergency Information  
Evacuation Alerts and Orders


[View](#)



**Be Prepared**

Resource Information and Videos  
Emergency Preparedness and Recovery

[Learn More](#)



**Emergency Notifications**

Be Safe – Be Informed  
CivicReady Mass Notification System

[Sign Up](#)

**Tweets by @EmergMgmtRDOS**

RDOS EOC Retweeted

**Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen**  
@RDOSinfo

Naramata FireSmart chipping event: June 5, 2021  
[rdos.bc.ca/newsandevents/...](https://rdos.bc.ca/newsandevents/)

**Quick Links**

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Information Line:  
• 250-490-4225

COVID-19 BC Support App and Self-Assessment Tool:  
<https://bc.thrive.health/>

Interior Health: [COVID-19 Information](#)

[RDOS COVID-19 Resource Links](#)

Fire Department, RCMP, and BC Ambulance Service: 9-1-1

[Emergency Support Services \(ESS\) for Evacuees](#)

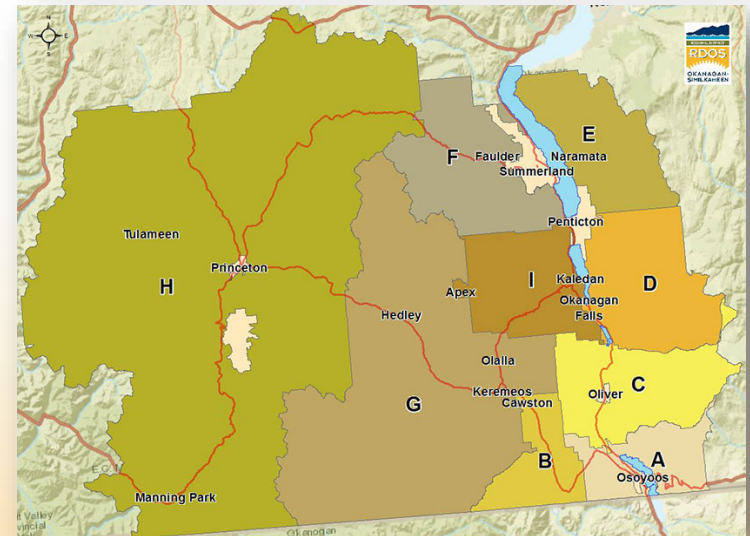
# Emergency Notification

**CIVICREADY®**  
Powered by Regroup®

## Be Safe – Be Informed – Be Involved in your Community!

- CivicReady® Mass Notification System is a communication service available to our residents to receive emergency and routine notifications.
- CivicReady is available to all RDOS Residents
- Communications can be received through email, text and/or phone call

Visit the RDOS Website to sign up for CivicReady  
[www.RDOS.bc.ca](http://www.RDOS.bc.ca)



**In the Fall of 2021 the RDOS will be switching to a NEW Mass Notification platform. More information will be provided over the next few months.**

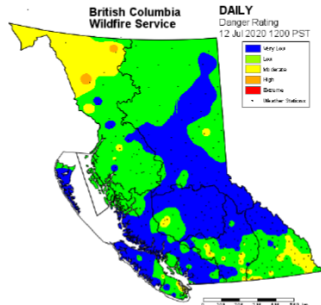


# Agriculture Wildfire Preparedness Bulletin

## 2021 Version to be released subsequent to this webinar

### 2020 Version:

#### 2020 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS BULLETIN FOR AGRICULTURE



#### 2020 Wildfire Outlook

The **SEASONAL OUTLOOK** is a long-range planning tool used by fire resource managers to present predictions of fire weather severity.

- The July precipitation forecast is not showing any strong indication in either direction of a drier or wetter month. The Central Interior region is trending to be cooler than normal with a good portion of the province is forecast to have near seasonal values for both temperature and precipitation.
- So far, B.C. has had a below average wildfire season with 199 wildfires compared to 530 as of July 10th in 2019. The duration of the rainfall events in July will have a greater impact on fire weather indices than heavy rain as we go into August.

**FIRE DANGER** is a relative index of how easy it is to ignite vegetation, how difficult a fire may be to control, and how much damage a fire may do.

- The fire danger rating (i.e. the risk of a wildfire starting) for the province will be updated more frequently as the season progresses. Fire danger maps (like the example on the left) can be found at [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/wildfire-situation/fire-danger](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/wildfire-situation/fire-danger).

#### Did you know - Farm Advice

- Have you thought about how BC Wildfire Service would (or could) connect to your water system if required?
- BC Wildfire Service normally use a 1.5" lined forestry hose with quick connect connection. You may need a reducer and adapter if running from a large irrigation pipe.
- If connecting from a standard 3" or 4" aluminium irrigation connection, it is recommended to reduce to a smaller pipe (as reducers not commonly available) down to 1.5" or 2" (there is a 2" reducer/coupling). There is also a cam lock to quick connect adapter available.
- For more information on ensuring that your water system is compatible with BC Wildfire Service connections visit [\(insert link\)](#)
- Have you completed your Farm/Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Plan? Download the workbook and guide at [www.bccanclimateaction.ca/wildfire](http://www.bccanclimateaction.ca/wildfire) and keep a copy on-hand for BC Wildfire Service in the event of wildfire emergency.

Bulletin produced by:  
[www.rdos.gov.bc.ca](http://www.rdos.gov.bc.ca)



#### 2020 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS BULLETIN FOR AGRICULTURE

##### Improving wildfire communications at RDOS ABOUT THIS PROJECT

RDOS is committed to improving communication with agricultural residents about wildfire risk and wildfire response throughout the 2020 wildfire season. RDOS recently developed an 'Agriculture Wildfire Communications Plan' to direct communication both in advance of a wildfire, and during an active emergency.

Some of the key activities from the Plan that will be implemented this year are highlighted below.

##### Ongoing Activities (during the wildfire season)

- Distribution of bulletins highlighting wildfire preparedness tips for agriculture and fire hazard updates
- Improved RDOS emergency webpage (see box on left)
- Spring Wildfire Information Exchange for Agriculture (visit RDOS website [\(insert link\)](#) to view a recording of the webinar)
- Encouraging producers to complete their farm level wildfire plan (see bottom of first page for more information)
- Promoting sign-up to Civic Ready electronic emergency alert system (see box left)

##### Emergency Activities (during an active wildfire)

- Training and incorporating Agricultural Liaison Officer Assistants to support Ministry of Agriculture staff in the Emergency Operations Centre (for cattle, grapes, cherries, tree fruits and horses)
- Using multi-layered communication to reach producers during an emergency (e.g. phone calls, Civic Ready, improved website, etc.)
- Increasing regular engagement with producers during an emergency (e.g. through daily local meetings)
- Clearly defining the process for producers to apply for a re-entry permit to attend to urgent farm activities (during an evacuation order)

#### OFFICIAL EMERGENCY INFORMATION

##### REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

- RDOS emergency website [www.emergency.rdos.bc.ca](http://www.emergency.rdos.bc.ca) - Find interactive maps and information on emergency preparedness and recovery.
- RDOS notifications: [www.emergency.rdos.bc.ca](http://www.emergency.rdos.bc.ca) - Sign up for CivicReady eNotifications
- RDOS Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RegionalDistrictOfOkanaganSimilkameen](http://www.facebook.com/RegionalDistrictOfOkanaganSimilkameen) - the latest RDOS emergency information.
- RDOS emergency number: 1-250-490-4225

##### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC (EMBC)

- To report an after-hours emergency, contact EMBC's Emergency Coordination Centre **1-800-663-3456**
- [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery)

##### BC WILDFIRE SERVICE

- BCWS dashboard at [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status) has information on fire danger ratings, wildfires of note, an interactive wildfire map and much more

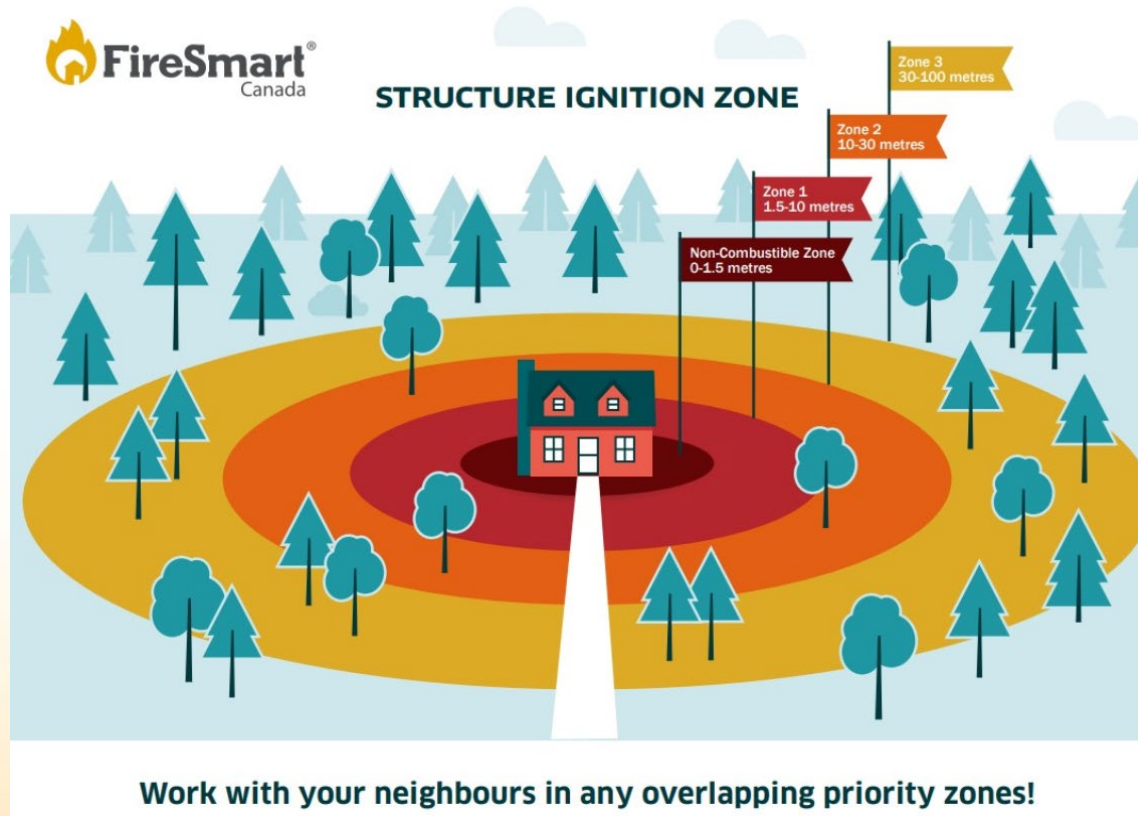
##### OFFICIAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- To report a wildfire or irresponsible fire behaviour call: **1-800-663-5555** or **\*5555** (cell)
- Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) **1-877-952-7277** or **#7277** (cell)

Support for this project  
provided by:



# Questions for RDOS?





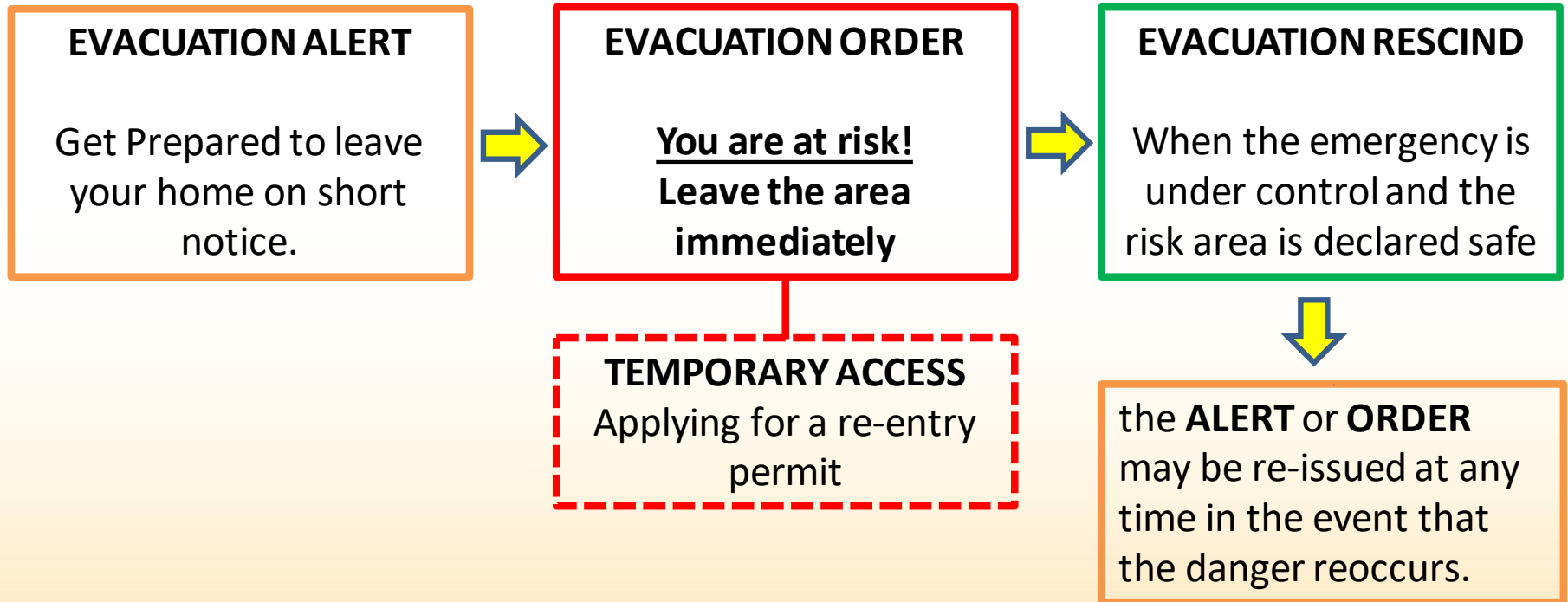
# What happens during a wildfire emergency?

- Evacuation stages: Alert, Order, Rescind
  - Applying for a re-entry permit during an evacuation order
- Roles and responsibilities
- Government level roles and responsibilities (RDOS, MAFF, BCWS, SAR & Others)
- Farm producers' roles and responsibilities (animal welfare & wildfire preparedness)



# What happens during a wildfire emergency?

## Evacuation Stages



# What happens during a wildfire emergency?

## *Mandatory Evacuations*

Mandatory evacuations take place to protect the health and safety and individuals and first responders. They should be considered when:

- There is a need to escape or avoid a dangerous situation;
- There is a need for emergency services to operate safely;
- There is a need to ensure the preservation of essential services; or
- There are known risks and hazards that are currently out of control.



# What happens during a wildfire emergency?

## *Temporary Access Considerations*

### Applying for a Re-entry Permit during an Evacuation Order

- Request is made to the RDOS EOC for a temporary access permit.
- The request will be assessed with a hazards-specific subject matter expert (BCWS, Range, EOC or local expert).
- Temporary Access, if granted, will be restricted to designated persons, routes, specific dates, and times, as required for safety.
- Temporary Access will only be granted if conditions are appropriate and may only be assessed at certain times during the day due to resources.
- Permit paperwork and identification will be required – COVID-19 workarounds.
- All Permits are actively managed by checkpoints and security.



# What happens during a wildfire emergency?



- Fire start
- BC Wildfire Service makes recommendations for trigger zones and evacuation areas based on feedback from Fire Leaders in the air and on the ground.
- They combine that with daily weather and forest fire conditions for a daily report and escalation.
- Emergency Operations Centre implement and consider additional measures.

# What happens during a wildfire emergency?

## Roles and Responsibilities

- Emergency Program Duty Officer
- Activation of Emergency Support Services
- Emergency Operations Centre – includes livestock requirements
- Implement State of Local Emergency Alerts, Orders and Rescinds
- The RCMP, Search & Rescue and others deliver the notices



# Roles and Responsibilities

## The RDOS (Local Government)

- Advise farm operators of threats and ongoing status of emergency. Personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture or the relevant livestock associations may assist with this activity.
- May coordinate transportation logistics needed to relocate livestock and poultry to safety. Note: The RDOS may not establish or manage centralized livestock relocation sites or provide associated support services.
- A critical role is to formally issue the three stages of an evacuation: order, alert and rescind. Min of Ag provides remote support to the EOC for agriculture permitting and livestock movement.





# Roles and Responsibilities

## Ministry of Agriculture

- If requested, send Agency Representatives to a local authority Emergency Operations Centre, or to a Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre. A Ministry EOC may be established in some large-scale events.
- Provide advice to farmers on the protection of livestock, including plans for relocating livestock and poultry from hazardous areas, and returning them when the threat has subsided.
- Support emergency evacuation and care of poultry and livestock.



# Roles and Responsibilities

## BCWS

- Mitigation through fuel reduction grants.
- Wildfire service manages wildland fire response.
- They respond to wildland fire on crown land.
- They support (local authorities) in response to wildland fires not on crown land.
- They work in coordination with the local fire department in structural fire protection.
- Provide risk information to the public, local and provincial governments.



# Roles and Responsibilities

## Others involved:

- SAR
- FLNRORD Range Officers
- Emergency Management BC
- Agricultural organisations
- Utilities
- BC Parks
- Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- And so on



# Roles and Responsibilities

## Farm Producer:

- The primary responsibility for animal protection.
- Arrange for appropriate insurance or other coverage for unexpected loss.
- Prepare for emergencies (e.g. a safe place to relocate animals when a hazard threatens).
- Consider the welfare of animals at risk (e.g. suffering that would be incurred by abandoned animals).
- Farm operators may contract individually with livestock relocation services and pay either directly or indirectly. However, such costs are conditionally eligible for reimbursement from the province under certain circumstances.

# Farm Level Wildfire Preparedness

## *Roles in a wildfire*

Producer Roles	Local Government	BC Wildfire Services	Ministry of Agriculture
Reduce the risk of damage and loss	Inform producers	Response and wildfire status updates	Support EOC and PREOC
Prepare for wildfire event to protect agricultural assets and essential operations	Form EOC/PREOC, issue evacuation alert/order	Advise EOC on trigger points for evacuation alert/order	Liaise with producers during emergency
Arrange for appropriate insurance (in advance)	Focus on public safety in response (may be able to assist producers, but limited)	Liaise with EOC/PREOC and other agencies & stakeholders (as possible – situational)	Work with private farm and animal owners in protecting livestock and farm assets

# Farm Level Wildfire Preparedness

## *BcAgClimateAction.ca/wildfire*

### Farm / Ranch Wildfire Plan for

Preparing for and Responding to Wildfire

Plan Last Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

British Columbia - Workbook Version 3: November 15, 2019

### GUIDE to completing a Farm / Ranch Wildfire Plan

British Columbia

Version 3: November 10, 2019





# Farm Level Wildfire Preparedness

## *[BcAgClimateAction.ca/wildfire](https://BcAgClimateAction.ca/wildfire)*

### **Before a Wildfire**

1. Wildfire Threat
2. Agriculture Operation Information
3. Range Tenure Information
4. Emergency Contacts
5. Agriculture Operation Maps
6. Livestock Inventory
7. Livestock Location During Wildfire Season
8. Vehicles and Response Equipment/Resources
9. Water Sources
10. Risk Reduction – On Property
11. Risk Reduction – Range-Level Assets
12. Insurance
13. Backup Power

### **During a Wildfire**

14. Information Sources
15. Decision Guide for Livestock Protection
16. Checklist for Sheltering Livestock in Barn
17. Checklist for Moving Livestock to On-Site Outdoor Location
18. Checklist for Relocating Livestock
19. Checklist for Opening Gates, Cutting Fences to Free Animals
20. Checklist to Create a Fire Break
21. Checklist to Deploy Sprinklers
22. Checklist for Operating Backup Generator
23. Checklist for Personal Evacuation
24. Checklist for Visitor and Employee Evacuation

### **After a Wildfire**

25. Checklist for Damage Assessment
26. Checklist for Initiating Insurance or Other Loss Coverage
27. Checklist for Recovery
28. Finalizing, Storing and Sharing the Wildfire Plan



# Questions?



Eagle Bluff Wildfire. August 2019. Photo courtesy of BC Wildfire Service.

Next up: Harmony Bjarnason (CAI)



# Agricultural Liaison Officer Assistants

- Eight volunteers were trained to take part in the pilot (2020)
  - 2021 Training Dates TBD
- Representatives for different production types/commodities (cattle, tree fruits, grapes and vineyards, horses)
- Work directly under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture Liaison Officer and with RDOS' Emergency Operations Centre

## Key purpose:

- **Information in**  
Incorporate local agricultural knowledge and expertise into the EOC
- **Information out**  
Act as an information conduit to agricultural operators during an emergency



# RDOS Agricultural Liaison Officer Assistants

Cattle	Grapes/Vineyards	Tree Fruits	Horses
Brigitte Daniels	Sandra Oldfield	Erin Carlson (cherries)	Paul Fyfe
Keith Manders	Pierre Levesque	Lorraine Bennest	Tracey Medway
Linda Allison			

# Final Questions? Comments?



Richter Mountain Wildfire. July 2019. Photo courtesy of CBC News.





## Closing remarks

- Stay informed: Visit the RDOS Website to sign up for CivicReady ([www.RDOS.bc.ca](http://www.RDOS.bc.ca))
- We sincerely appreciate your feedback and will use it to improve these sessions in the future.
- Link to webinar will be available to those who were not able to attend.
- Questions/Comments: [svaisler@rdos.bc.ca](mailto:svaisler@rdos.bc.ca)

Thank you for participating!