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A guide to reliable Canadian wildfire resources

How to find trustworthy information on wildfire mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery

Compiled by the Wildfire Resilience Consortium of Canada

Wildfire management includes four interconnected pillars.

In Canada, a diverse and growing number of organizations and government agencies are engaged in a spectrum of wildfire management activities. These include the four interconnected pillars of emergency management:



Mitigation and Prevention

Reducing wildfire risk to communities, critical infrastructure and other values, minimizing the occurrence of fire starts, and lessening the impact of future wildfires.

Preparedness

Ensuring communities and relevant agencies are ready to respond effectively to wildfires in their areas of responsibility.

Response

Managing and minimizing the impacts of active wildfires immediately before, during, and after they occur.

Recovery

Repairing, restoring, and revitalizing affected communities, ecosystems, infrastructure, and other values after wildfire events.

Summary by organization

These organizations provide helpful information and/or services across the emergency management spectrum.

Canada Wildfire Network

Canada Wildfire Network (CWN) is a partnership of operational and research organizations facilitating development, exchange, translation, and dissemination of knowledge. CWN facilitates cross-sectoral collaborations to support improved wildfire management, with growing emphasis on physical and psychological wellbeing.

Canadian Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross is a charitable organization providing humanitarian support and resources to people in need, including those affected by wildfires. It offers a range of resources for reducing risks to homes, businesses, and communities, including emergency planning, returning home safely, and navigating insurance claims. The Canadian Red Cross Guide to Wildfire is an important tool for managing practical and emotional steps after a wildfire.

Canadian Wildland Fire Information System

The Canadian Wildland Fire Information System monitors live fire danger conditions and fire occurrences nationwide. It also generates fire behaviour maps from weather data, satellite monitoring, and reports from management agencies.

FireSmart™ Canada

FireSmart Canada is a national program helping Canadians reduce the impacts of wildfire and increase the resilience of their neighbourhoods. It provides practical tools such as manuals, landscaping guides, structural protection fact sheets, and research materials that outline practices (e.g., vegetation management, improving building materials, and reducing ignition sources) to help limit wildfire impacts. FireSmart also offers self-assessment guides and checklists for residents and training programs, such as FireSmart 101.

First Nations Wildfire Evacuation Partnership

The First Nations Wildfire Evacuation Partnership (FNWEP) is a collaborative group of First Nations communities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario, along with researchers from the University of Alberta and the Canadian Forest Service. FNWEP developed a guide for First Nations wildfire evacuations, which includes checklists and guiding questions for communities and agencies. The partnership also provides free resources including printable posters, research summaries, webinar recordings, and links to other preparedness information.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

ISC is a federal government agency whose services include investments in wildfire prevention, emergency planning, response coordination, and evacuation guidance for First Nations communities. It also provides information on funding programs, including for structural mitigation and firefighting equipment, as well as links to Indigenous-led FireSmart and Red Cross preparedness resources.



**This is not an exhaustive list and is not intended to capture all services and information provided by these organizations.*



Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction

The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) is an independent, not-for-profit research institute founded by Canada's insurance industry and affiliated with Western University. Engaged in disaster prevention research and communication, ICLR provides wildfire resources including residential, commercial, and farm wildfire preparedness guides and instructional videos, including practical safety tips.



Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation

The Intact Centre is an applied research institute at the University of Waterloo that conducts research and knowledge mobilization to identify and reduce the impacts of extreme weather and climate change. The Centre outlines actionable measures that reduce the impact of climate-driven hazards, including strategies for managing natural assets to limit damage from extreme weather and wildfire. It also provides guidance for households, apartment dwellers, municipalities, and businesses on how to prepare for climate-related hazards by creating home protection plans, understanding risks, and reducing exposure.



Parks Canada National Fire Management Program

Parks Canada's National Fire Management Program works to support public safety and stewardship of areas under Parks Canada administration. It hosts background information on prescribed fire, preparedness, ecosystem restoration and revitalization, and operational wildfire response, including danger ratings. It also offers a comprehensive Indigenous Fire Stewardship section with links to funding opportunities.



Public Safety Canada (getprepared.ca)

The Government of Canada's Public Safety Canada website provides information and resources on how Canadians can prepare themselves and their families for emergencies. The site includes links for interagency and cross-jurisdictional support for wildfire and emergency response, as well as resources for those affected by wildfire.



Public Safety Canada Wildfire Response

This Government of Canada wildfire response page outlines programs, policies, and initiatives that support provincial and territorial wildfire agencies and help keep Canadians informed about wildfire. It includes links to current situation dashboards, maps, and smoke and weather data, along with various preparation guides for Canadians.



Thunderbird Collective

Thunderbird Collective is an Indigenous-led organization that supports Indigenous leadership in wildfire stewardship and management across Canada. Through its funding and programming, the Collective advances Knowledge Sharing, Land-Based Learning, Advocacy, and Sovereignty, helping communities strengthen traditional fire stewardship practices, build wildfire resilience, and uphold Indigenous rights and governance.



The Weather Network

The Weather Network is a Canadian specialty media company focused on weather information and related news. It offers safety guidance on smoke, air quality, and evacuation essentials, as well as insurance information and seasonal updates.

Provincial and territorial wildfire agencies

Provinces and territories lead the response to wildfires within their jurisdiction, in cooperation with other authorities and organizations. They are the primary source of essential, officially verified updates on active wildfires. Many of these agencies also offer helpful resources and information on wildfire management specific to their province or territory.

