

Wildfire Season Safety



WILDFIRE SEASON

Canada's wildfire season varies by region and local conditions and typically peak during the spring and summer months. From as early as March to September, warmer temperatures, lower humidity levels and drier conditions all contribute to an increased risk of wildfires.

Specific timing and severity of wildfire season can vary year-to-year based on factors such as weather patterns, precipitation levels and human activity.

Preparation

Each province may have specific requirements on wildfire prevention and preparedness plan that organizations need to comply with (check the Resources section below). For example, the British Columbia Energy Regulator (BCER) recommends companies review their emergency management plans for wildfire preparedness to identify gaps in planning and improve site-level readiness. According to the BCER, actions to consider include:

- Reviewing asset locations and where structural protection units (SPUs) are available and may need to be deployed.
- Having sufficient on-site water supplies to provide structural protection from fires for a minimum of 24 hours—obtain water use and storage authorization if needed.
- Ensuring sufficient area beneath and around any flare stacks is free of combustible materials and vegetation. Inspect all flare equipment to prevent ignition hazards such as liquid carryover or burning cinders in surrounding areas.
- Following provincial FireSmart recommendations to improve vegetation management around critical sites to the extent allowed within permits.
- Reviewing staff safety plans, evacuation protocols and designated muster areas.



PROMPT REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Effective reporting and response mechanisms are essential for quickly detecting and containing wildfires. Key components of reporting and response include (not an exhaustive list):

- Immediately report signs of smoke or fire to local authorities via emergency hotlines, online systems, or mobile apps.
- Continuous Monitoring: Use tools like satellite imagery, aerial reconnaissance, weather stations, and observation networks to detect early wildfire signs.
- Communication and Coordination: Maintain clear communication and coordination among fire departments, emergency management, law enforcement, and community organizations.
- Evacuation Readiness: Ensure effective communication of evacuation orders, warnings, and guidance on routes and shelter locations.
- Community Engagement: Increase wildfire risk awareness through educational resources, training, and outreach.

Resources

Energy Safety Canada

[Wildfire Smoke Poses Health and Safety Risks](#)

[Wildfire Preparedness](#)

Canadian Government

[Government of Canada's Air Quality Health Index](#)

Alberta Government

[Wildfire Review](#)

[Alberta Wildfire](#)

[Alberta Wildfire's Interactive Map](#)

British Columbia Government

[Wildfire Act, Section 6 Industrial Activities](#)

WorkSafeBC

[Media Backgrounder: Wildfires: Keeping Workers Safe](#)

BCER

[2024 Wildfire Preparedness \(SA 2024-01\)](#)

[Provincial Emergency Updates](#)

Saskatchewan

[What you need to know about wildfires](#)

[Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Plan](#)
(a fire prevention and preparedness plan is required)



EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR REPORTING WILDFIRES

British Columbia

1.800.663.5555 or *5555 from a cell phone

Alberta

310.3473

Saskatchewan

306.787.3774

