

FIGHTING FOREST FIRES

A.

Forest fires are a fact of life in Saskatchewan. Some fires in the observation / modified zones are left to burn as part of the natural process of helping to renew the forest.

Saskatchewan Wildfire Management fire-fighting crews put out other fires, especially those that threaten lives, communities or valuable resources. As well, Wildfire Management uses a centralized decision making philosophy for wildfire operations.

B.

Wildfires are attacked as quickly as possible with:

- *Initial Attack Crews or Type 1 Crew*
- *Sustained Action Crew or Type 2 Crew*
- *Emergency Fire Personnel (EFP) Crew or Type 3*
- *Crew Leader*

If Type 2 or 3 crews and all other manpower are used elsewhere, Saskatchewan can ask for more trained wildfire personnel from other provinces and the USA through the *Mutual Aid Resource Sharing (MARS)*.

If the wildfires become too large or something like too many fires occurring at the same time, an *Incident Management Team (Type 1 or 2)* will be assigned to a particular fire or to a fire complex. This team will report directly to the Senior fire Manager or a designate responsible for the fire area in which the fire(s) are burning.



Initial Attack Crew –Type 1 Crew
--Minister of Environment unionized staff which are located in each Forest Protection Area
--highly trained and experienced seasonal staff which meets or exceeds the standards for wildland fire fighters established by the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
--purpose of Type 1 crews is to perform initial attack activities on wildland fires --can also be used to supervise Type 2 or Type 3 crews on sustained action fires --can also be exported to the USA if needed --can also be sent to other parts of Canada to help with wildfires
--fitness test requirements is an arduous pack test/upright row test/pump and hose test

Sustained Action Crew— Crew Type 2

--this crew is contracted through formal agreements with First Nation organizations and Northern Communities (Northern Forest Protection Worker Training Program)

--located in various communities and reserves near or within the commercial forest

--the crew size is five fire fighters including the crew leader
i) the crew is made up of qualified / certified individuals

--this crew is used to control and contain hot firelines on sustained action fires
--this crew may also be used to assist Type 1 crews on the initial attack where required
--many people on the Type 2 crews return each fire season and have a lot of fireline experience and formalized training

--fitness test—crew must be able to go on a 3.2 km hike with a 25 pound pack in 30 minutes

Emergency Fire Personnel (EFP)—Crew Type 3

--are qualified fire fighters hired on an emergency basis

--they are used to support Type 1 and Type 2 crews working on ongoing fire operations
--normally used on a fireline that is under control or in a mop up stage

--crew is 5 fireline personnel including a qualified / certified crew leader

--Type 3 crew are not normally considered for export to other provinces or agencies for wildland fire fighting

Crew Leader

--is responsible for supervision and safety of members for Crew Type 1, 2, and 3

--is responsible for timekeeping and inventory of equipment used



Forest Protection Offices

- Big River Fire Base: 306 469-2500
- Buffalo Narrows Fire Base: 306 235-1800
- Cypress Hills Fire Base: 306 662-5498
- Dorintosh Fire Base: 306 236 7696
- Fishing Lakes Fire Base: 306 426-2600
- Hudson Bay Fire Base: 306 865-4500
- Ile a La Cross Fire Base: 306 833 3220

- La Loche Fire Base: 306 822-1703
- La Ronge Fire Base: 306 425-4447
- Pelican Narrows Fire Base: 306 632-5500
- Prince Albert Fire Base: 306 953 3422
- Southend Fire Base: 306 758-6255
- Stony Rapids Fire Base: 306 439-2062
- Weyakwin Fire Base: 306 663-5620