

# FIGHTING FOREST FIRES

A.

Forest fires are a fact of life in Saskatchewan. Some fires in certain fire 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.



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 crews are used elsewhere, Saskatchewan can ask for more trained wildfire personnel from other provinces and the USA.

If the wildfires become too large or too many fires are happening at the same time, an *Incident Management Team (Type 1 or 2)* will go to that fire.

<b>Initial Attack Crew –Type 1 Crew</b>
-- are located in each Forest Protection area

--highly trained and experienced seasonal staff

--must be able to work with a backpack, pump and hose

### **Sustained Action Crew— Crew Type 2**

--this crew gets their workers from First Nation organizations, Northern communities, and reserves that are near or within the forest

--the crew size is five fire fighters including the crew leader

--this crew is used to control and contain hot fire lines on action fires  
--this crew may also be used to help Type 1 crews on the attack where needed  
--many people on the Type 2 crews return each fire season and have a lot of fire line experience and 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 help Type 1 and Type 2 crews working on ongoing fires  
--normally used on a fire line that is under control

--crew is made up of 5 fire line people including a qualified crew leader

--Type 3 crew do not normally go to other provinces for wild land fire fighting

## **Crew Leader**

--is responsible for looking after and keeping the members of Crew Type 1, 2, and 3 safe

--is responsible for timekeeping and keeping track of the 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

