



New Zealand Fire Service

National Headquarters
Level 12
80 The Terrace
PO Box 2133
Wellington

New Zealand

Phone+64 4 496 3600, Fax +64 4 496 3700

9 September 2014

Alan Thompson
Lower Hutt

By email www.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Thompson

Official Information Request

I refer to your correspondence of 19 August 2014 to the NZ Fire Service Commission, to which I reply on its behalf.

With respect to your request for information on the International Fire Deployment by the Department of Primary Industries and Environment (DEPI) Victoria to the British Columbia Forest Service (BCFS), I advise the following:

The Commission has not received a request to provide New Zealand fire fighting resources to British Columbia.

The NZ Fire Service Commission will continue to honor our international agreements whenever formal requests for mutual support are received.

As no request for assistance was received from the BCFS, there was no need to engage with New Zealand rural agencies or personnel. You will note however that a general advisory was sent to the rural fire sector on 28 July by the Acting National Rural Fire Officer, Gary Lockyer.

Please find attached copies of all documentation held in respect of the DEPI's international deployment to the British Columbia Forest Service.

If you need any further help please contact my office.

Yours sincerely

Rob Pope
Director, Office of the Chief Executive

encl

www.fire.org.nz

Lockyer, Gary

From: Alan.Goodwin@depi.vic.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 21 July 2014 2:07 p.m.
To: Tony Blanks; Nigel Foss; Adrian Pyrke; Mark Edwards; Dudfield, Murray; Peter Leeson; Craig Brown; Shane Wiseman; David Nugent; Fintan O'Laughlin; Neil Cooper; Gary Featherston; Justin Cook; Leigh Kleinschmidt; Dave Hunt (DOC Rotorua); Naomi Stephens; Dean Sheehan; James Lonergan; Andrew Sullivan; Andrew Graystone; Murray Carter; Alan Goodwin; Mick Stephens; Mark Ashley; Lockyer, Gary; Bryan Jensen; Darrin McKenzie; Gary Morgan; Tim.McGuffog@fcns.w.com.au
Cc: Gil.Marshall@depi.vic.gov.au; Stuart Ellis; Richard Thornton
Subject: BC Liaison

Team

Good Morning,

North America is currently experiencing a busy bushfire season. This level of activity is not usually experienced until August and resources across Canada and the US are beginning to reach capacity.

As a result British Columbia has approach the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) through Alan Goodwin, Chief Fire Officer on behalf of the Secretary, Adam Fennessy, to send two liaison officers to Kamloops, British Columbia to obtain an understanding of the situation and to assist work on a potential request for resources.

At this stage there is no formal request for resources beyond the two liaison officers.

Planning is currently underway for the liaison officers, Ryan Incoll (DEPI) and Simon Hemer (NSW Parks) to travel on Thursday 24 July to Kamloops.






DEPI will use it's existing resource sharing agreements with British Columbia to lead the coordination of any potential deployment of resources along with the other state fire services and Emergency Management Victoria (EMV).

Further updates will be provided as additional information becomes available or the bushfire situation in British Columbia changes.

If you require any further information in relation to this situation please contact Deputy Chief Fire Officer Darrin McKenzie on (03) 9637 8481 or 0428 343 996.

Regards

Goody

DEPI	Alan Goodwin Chief Fire Officer Office of the Chief Fire Officer Land, Fire and Environment Department of Environment and Primary Industries Level 3, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 T: 03 9412 4524 M: 0409 352 649 E: alan.goodwin@depi.vic.gov.au	
	    www.depi.vic.gov.au	

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Lockyer, Gary

From: Davidson, Abigail
Sent: Monday, 28 July 2014 7:19 a.m.
To: Rural Team SUTTON; Rural Team CARTELLE; Rural Team HANDS; Strategic Leadership Team
Cc: Rural Fire Managers; Rural Mail User (AXA Hse)
Subject: British Columbia - Deployment Contingency Planning by DEPI Victoria.
Attachments: BC Liaison SitRep1 - 25 July 2014.pdf

Good morning,

This message is for information only, No assistance is being requested from New Zealand.

North America is currently experiencing a busy bushfire season, and forest and rural fire resources across Canada and the US are beginning to reach capacity. This level of activity is not unusual, but historically this level of wildfire activity is not experienced until mid August.

As a result British Columbia (BC) has approached the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) Victoria (VIC) through Alan Goodwin, Chief Fire Officer on behalf of the Secretary, Adam Fennessy, to send two liaison officers to Kamloops, British Columbia to obtain an understanding of the situation and to assist with planning work on a potential request for resources from DEPI Victoria.

At this stage there is no formal request for resources beyond the two liaison officers. On Thursday 24 July the two liaison officers, Ryan Incoll (DEPI) and Simon Hemer (NSW Parks) travelled to Kamloops, British Columbia. Attached for information is a copy of the liaison officers first situation report.

DEPI will use its existing resource sharing agreements with British Columbia to lead the coordination of any potential deployment of resources along with the other state fire services and Emergency Management Victoria.

No requests have been made to New Zealand for assistance to British Columbia. This possible deployment by DEPI Victoria to British Columbia would be by way of a separate bilateral agreement between those two agencies.

New Zealand (through NRFA) has an international agreement for mutual aid with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), the federal coordination agency for wildland fire management across all Canada. NRFA will continue to liaise and work through CIFFC in respect of any possible requests to NZ for assistance should a formal request be forthcoming.

Further updates will be shared on the possible DEPI VIC deployment to BC as additional information becomes available or as the bushfire situation in British Columbia changes.

Regards



Gary Lockyer
National Rural Fire Officer (Acting)

National Rural Fire Authority

DDI: +64 4 496 3891
Mobile: +64 27 614 0010

Lockyer, Gary

From: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au
Sent: Sunday, 27 July 2014 12:50 p.m.
To: __M_LFE_Executive@cenitex.vic.gov.au; __M_FFMG@cenitex.vic.gov.au
Cc: Alan.Goodwin@depi.vic.gov.au
Subject: British Columbia - Liaison SitRep
Attachments: BC Liaison SitRep 1.pdf




Good Morning All,

Please find attached a brief Situation Report summarising the current wildfire situation in British Columbia.

In addition, please note that based on current conditions it is unlikely that any resource request for Australia will occur until a review is conducted late next week.

Further updates will be provided over the course of next week.

Regards

DEPI	Darrin McKenzie Deputy Chief Fire Officer Office of the Chief Fire Officer Land, Fire and Environment Department of Environment and Primary Industries Level 3, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 T: 03 9637 8481 M: 0428 343 996 E: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au	
	    www.depi.vic.gov.au	

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Lockyer, Gary

From: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 29 July 2014 5:03 p.m.
To: ___M_LFE_Executive@cenitex.vic.gov.au; ___M_FFMG@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
___M_RS_RDs@cenitex.vic.gov.au; bernie.o'sullivan@depi.vic.gov.au;
adam.fennessy@depi.vic.gov.au; Grange.Jephcott@depi.vic.gov.au;
___M_LFE_OCFO@cenitex.vic.gov.au
Subject: British Columbia - Liaison SitRep No. 2
Attachments: Canada SitRep 2.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached the latest situation report summarising the current wildfire situation and the work being undertaken by the liaison officers in British Columbia.

In addition, please note that based on current conditions it is unlikely that any resource request for Australia will occur until a review is conducted later this week.

At this stage any request for resources will include IMT and specialist fire roles only. It is not envisaged that there will be any requirement for fire line personnel.

Further updates will be provided over the course of this week.

Regards

	Darrin McKenzie Deputy Chief Fire Officer Office of the Chief Fire Officer Land, Fire and Environment Department of Environment and Primary Industries Level 3, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 T: 03 9637 8481 M: 0428 343 996 E: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au	
	 www.depi.vic.gov.au	



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Robinson, Louise

From: Lockyer, Gary
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2014 2:51 p.m.
To: Robinson, Louise
Cc: Pope, Rob; Davidson, Abigail
Subject: RE: OIA 2014.092 Request
Attachments: OIA 2014.092 Request.pdf; OIA 2014.092 Answer.docx; OIA 2014.092 Answer_appendix Documents.pdf

Categories: MONDAY

Hi Louise,

Please find attached a draft response and associated documents appendix for the OIA 2014.092 Request.

Regards
Gary.

From: Robinson, Louise
Sent: Friday, 22 August 2014 3:49 p.m.
To: Lockyer, Gary
Cc: Pope, Rob; Davidson, Abigail
Subject: OIA 2014.092 Request

Hi Gary
Please find attached OIA 2014.092 request for draft response by 9 September 2014.
Many thanks
Regards
Louise



Louise Robinson
Business Support to Rob Pope, Director Office of the Chief Executive

New Zealand Fire Service
Phone: (04) 496 3694 or Extn: 4694
Mobile: (021) 833 640
Fax: (04) 496 3700
Email: louise.robinson@fire.org.nz
National Headquarters, Level 12, 80 The Terrace
PO Box 2133, Wellington 6140

Lockyer, Gary

From: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 1 August 2014 12:22 p.m.
To: __M_LFE_Executive@cenitex.vic.gov.au; __M_FFMMG@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
adam.fennessy@depi.vic.gov.au
Subject: British Columbia Update
Attachments: Canada LO SitRep3.pdf

Good Morning,






Please find attached the latest situation report summarising the current wildfire situation and the work being undertaken by the liaison officers in British Columbia.

In addition, please note the increased likelihood of DEPI receiving a request for resources from BC over the next few days.

As indicated the likely resource request will include 2 x type 1/level 3 IMTs (~25 per team) including specialist roles in FBAN and aviation.

Further information will be provided over the coming days.

Regards

DEPI	Darrin McKenzie Deputy Chief Fire Officer Office of the Chief Fire Officer Land, Fire and Environment Department of Environment and Primary Industries Level 3, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 T: 03 9637 8481 M: 0428 343 996 E: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au	
	    www.depi.vic.gov.au	

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Lockyer, Gary

From: darin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 4 August 2014 11:50 a.m.
To: __M_LFE_Executive@cenitex.vic.gov.au; __M_RS_RDs@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
__M_FFMG@cenitex.vic.gov.au; __M_RS_LAF_Managers_Team@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
adam.fennessy@depi.vic.gov.au; bernie.o'sullivan@depi.vic.gov.au;
stuart.ellis@afac.com.au; __M_LFE_OCFO@cenitex.vic.gov.au
Subject: British Columbia - Update
Attachments: Canada SitRep 4.pdf

Good Morning,

Please find attached the latest wildfire situation report from Liaison Officers currently in British Columbia.


In addition, please note that a request has been made for resources from Australia to support ongoing fire operations in BC.

The request covers 2 x Type 1 IMTs of 10 people each, plus 59 single resources. The total request is for 81 people including two Liaison Officers. Personnel are required to be in place for shift day one on 12 August for a period of 5 weeks.

An International Interstate Liaison Unit is established within the State Control Centre to commence working on the request.

Further updates will be provided over the coming days.

Regards

DEPI	Darrin McKenzie Deputy Chief Fire Officer Office of the Chief Fire Officer Land, Fire and Environment Department of Environment and Primary Industries Level 3, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 T: 03 9637 8481 M: 0428 343 996 E: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au	
	    www.depi.vic.gov.au	



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Lockyer, Gary

From: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2014 10:49 a.m.
To: __M_LFE_Executive@cenitex.vic.gov.au; __M_RS_RDs@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
__M_FFMG@cenitex.vic.gov.au; adam.fennessy@depi.vic.gov.au;
bernie.o'sullivan@depi.vic.gov.au; __M_LFE_OCFO@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
__M_RS_LAF_Program_Managers_-_Fire@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
Alan.Goodwin@depi.vic.gov.au
Subject: British Columbia Situation Update
Attachments: Canada LO SitRep6.pdf

Good Morning,

Please find attached the latest situation report from Liaison Officers currently on deployment in British Columbia.

Further updates will be provided during the deployment.

Regards

DEPI	Darrin McKenzie Deputy Chief Fire Officer Office of the Chief Fire Officer Land, Fire and Environment Department of Environment and Primary Industries Level 3, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 T: 03 9637 8481 M: 0428 343 996 E: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au	
	    www.depi.vic.gov.au	

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Lockyer, Gary

From: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2014 5:08 p.m.
To: ___M_LFE_Executive@cenitex.vic.gov.au; ___M_RS_RDs@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
___M_RS_LAF_Managers_Team@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
___M_LFE_OCFO@cenitex.vic.gov.au; ___M_FFMG@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
adam.fennessy@depi.vic.gov.au; bernie.o'sullivan@depi.vic.gov.au; Stuart Ellis;
Craig.Lapsley@emv.vic.gov.au; prau@mfb.vic.gov.au; trevor.white@ses.vic.gov.au
Subject: British Columbia - Situation Report
Attachments: Canada LO SitRep7 11Aug14.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached the latest situation report from Liaison Officers currently located in British Columbia.

The family and friends website is up and running located at www.portal.em.vic.gov.au where various photographs and other information is posted.

Further updates will follow during the deployment.

Regards

	Darrin McKenzie Deputy Chief Fire Officer Office of the Chief Fire Officer Land, Fire and Environment Department of Environment and Primary Industries Level 3, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 T: 03 9637 8481 M: 0428 343 996 E: darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au
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Lockyer, Gary




From: darren.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 19 August 2014 3:47 p.m.
To: __M_LFE_OCFO@cenitex.vic.gov.au; __M_LFE_Executive@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
__M_RS_RDs@cenitex.vic.gov.au; __M_RS_LAF_Managers_Team@cenitex.vic.gov.au;
__M_FFMG@cenitex.vic.gov.au; bernie.o'sullivan@depi.vic.gov.au;
adam.fennessy@depi.vic.gov.au; murray@ruralfire.org.nz; Stuart Ellis
Subject: Fw: BC International Deployment SitRep
Attachments: Canada LO SitRep9 18Aug14.pdf; Australian resource deployment google map.pptx

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached latest situation report from the British Columbia deployment.

Apologies if you have receiving this message for a second time.

Regards

	Darrin McKenzie Deputy Chief Fire Officer Office of the Chief Fire Officer Land, Fire and Environment Department of Environment and Primary Industries Level 3, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 T: 03 9637 8481 M: 0428 343 996 E: darren.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au	
	 www.depi.vic.gov.au	

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— Forwarded by Darrin McKenzie/DSE/VICGOV1 on 19/08/2014 01:32 PM —

From: "SCC-Vic (State Agency Commander - DEPI)" <scovic.scmdr.depi@sc.vic.gov.au>
To: "SCC-Vic (International Deployment)" <scovic.international@sc.vic.gov.au>, "SCC-Vic (SCC Duty Manager)" <scovic.sccmgr@sc.vic.gov.au>, "SCC-Vic (State Agency Commander - MFB)" <scovic.scmdr.mfb@sc.vic.gov.au>, "SCC-Vic (State Agency Commander - SES)" <scovic.scmdr.ses@sc.vic.gov.au>, "SCC-Vic (State Duty Officer - All)" <scovic.sdo.all@sc.vic.gov.au>, "SCC-Vic (Interstate/International Liaison Unit)" <scovic.illu@sc.vic.gov.au>, "ESC-DEPI/NEO (Andrew Graystone)" <andrew.graystone@perks.vic.gov.au>, "ESC-DEPI/NEO (Darrin Mckenzie)" <Darrin.mckenzie@depi.vic.gov.au>, "ESC-DEPI/NEO (Gil Marshall)" <gil.marshall@depi.vic.gov.au>, "SCC-Vic (State Agency Commander - DEPI)" <scovic.scmdr.depi@sc.vic.gov.au>, "SCC-Vic (State Agency Commander - CFA)" <scovic.scmdr.cfa@sc.vic.gov.au>, "Anna Macdonald@dpaw.wa.gov.au" <Anna.Macdonald@dpaw.wa.gov.au>, "craige.brown@melbournwater.com.au" <craige.brown@melbournwater.com.au>, "James Ionergan@environment.nsw.gov.au" <james.ionergan@environment.nsw.gov.au>, "John.Cawcutt@qfes.qld.gov.au" <John.Cawcutt@qfes.qld.gov.au>, "Keith.Low@dpaw.wa.gov.au" <Keith.Low@dpaw.wa.gov.au>, "margaret.kitchin@act.gov.au" <margaret.kitchin@act.gov.au>, "qfrsoc.admin@dcqs.qld.gov.au" <qfrsoc.admin@dcqs.qld.gov.au>, "Rory.Renwick@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz" <rory.renwick@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>, "scott.farquhar@act.gov.au" <scott.farquhar@act.gov.au>, "Sean.Greenwood@rfs.nsw.gov.au" <Sean.Greenwood@rfs.nsw.gov.au>, "shane.wiseman@sa.gov.au" <shane.wiseman@sa.gov.au>, "Simon.hemer@environment.nsw.gov.au" <Simon.hemer@environment.nsw.gov.au>, "state.operations@rfs.nsw.gov.au" <state.operations@rfs.nsw.gov.au>, "Terry.Maher@DPaW.wa.gov.au" <Terry.Maher@DPaW.wa.gov.au>
Cc: "ESC-DEPI (Konrad Gill)" <konrad.gill@depi.vic.gov.au>, "konrad.gill@scinfo.vic.gov.au" <konrad.gill@scinfo.vic.gov.au>
Date: 19/08/2014 01:12 PM
Subject: BC International Deployment SitRep and Resource tracker update - for 18 August 2014

Afternoon all,

Please find attached British Columbia Liaison SitRep No. 9 and Australian deployment resource tracker.

NOTE: All Australian resources are now deployed to roles across BC.

Please call if you would like to discuss.

British Columbia Liaison SitRep

25 July 2014

Situation

There are no immediate resource requests for Australia, however this will be reviewed next week.

Liaison Officers, Ryan Incoll (DEPI) and Simon Hemer (NPWS NSW) are at the British Columbia Wildfire Management Branch Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre in Kamloops.



Morning briefing at Kamloops

BC is experiencing a significantly above average fire load, with the largest area burnt at this time of year since 1958. Seasonal conditions are dryer than normal, and fire activity levels have been high in both the north and south of the Province. There are currently 108 active fires, including 52 new fires in the last week, with >2,700 personnel tasked.

Other provinces are experiencing significant fire activity, including North West Territories (>1Mha burnt) and Alberta (oil and gas infrastructure risk). The national preparedness level is at 4 (max 5). The US is at preparedness level 3.



Current BC wildfires, see <http://bcwildfire.ca/Situation/LoadMap.htm>

BC's resources have been fully committed, and more than 500 out of Province firefighters and IMT staff have been supporting operations. BC had asked the US for cross border resources however fire activity in the Pacific NW prevented any allocations. Consequently BC made an initial request to Australia on 20 July.

While there has been precipitation over some southern firegrounds in the last three days, the level of risk remains high, particularly as the southern fire season peaks in August/September.



Ryan at Botanie fire, Lytton

Mission

1. To clearly determine the resource requirements of BC for fire suppression support from Australia for August 2014.
2. To prepare for any potential deployment through establishing in country liaison, developing and sharing strategic situational awareness, establishing resource lists and timeframes, integrating lessons from past deployments, updating operating procedures and facilitating arrangements for the rapid request and deployment of Australian resources to the BC fireline.
3. To manage the logistic and liaison role for any eventuating deployment of Australian resources.
4. To undertake other liaison activities with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and/or US National Interagency Fire Centre as required.

Execution

- Establish relationships with key BC personnel, gain intelligence on fire situation and outlook.
- Identify priority resource types likely to be requested and cross match competency requirements.
- Map logistical steps for deployment and determine timeline to minimise time delays between request and fireline deployment.
- Review lessons from past deployments and integrate into procedures.
- Review BC incoming crew package and processes and tailor to potential Australian crews as required.
- Confirm resource cost rates for responding participants support to BC.
- Determine future requirements to travel to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre to meet with CIFC staff.



Botanie fire, Lytton

Administration

Regular written reports will be forwarded to the DEPI Chief Fire Officer for appropriate circulation. Teleconferences will be arranged as required.

A generic email address of sccvic.international@scc.vic.gov.au has been established for all correspondence from Australia to the Liaison Officers.

Command & Control

Liaison Officers will continue to report to the Chief Fire Officer, DEPI.

Useful links

BC <http://bcwildfire.ca/>

Canada <http://www.cffc.ca/firewire/current.php>

USA <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sit:rept.pdf>

Simon Hemer 0429 157085

Ryan Incoll 0429 397770



British Columbia Liaison SitRep 2

28 July 2014

Situation

There are no immediate resource requests for Australia, however this will be reviewed on Friday 1 August.

Liaison Officer Ryan Incoll is at the British Columbia Wildfire Management Branch Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre in Kamloops, and Simon Hemer is at Prince George Regional Fire Centre.

The southern BC fire season normally commences from the start of August, and Wildfire Management Branch staff are anticipating a protracted season. Following precipitation in part of the south of the province last week, temperatures have returned to the high 30's. Holdover fires from lightning last week are emerging as fire weather ramps up.



Kamloops and Prince George, BC

92 fires continue to burn across BC, with 190,000ha burnt year to date (the largest area burnt at this time of year since 1958) and \$93M has been invested in suppression operations. 2,000 people are assigned to fires.

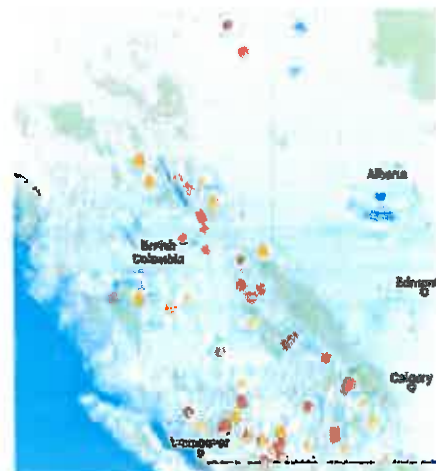


Kamloops Fire Centre

A high fire load is continuing in North West Territories, Alberta and the US Pacific North West. Out of province resourcing is anticipated to be required in the longer term for NWT. Canada is at preparedness level 4, and the US is at preparedness level 3.



Mount McAllister fire



Current BC wildfires, see <http://bcwildfire.ca/Situation/LoadMap.htm>

Mission

1. To clearly determine the resource requirements of BC for fire suppression support from Australia for August 2014.
2. To prepare for any potential deployment through establishing in country liaison, developing and sharing strategic situational awareness, establishing resource lists and timeframes, integrating lessons from past deployments, updating operating procedures and facilitating arrangements for the rapid request and deployment of Australian resources to the BC fireline.
3. To manage the logistic and liaison role for any eventuating deployment of Australian resources.
4. To undertake other liaison activities with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and/or US National Interagency Fire Centre as required.



Air tankers, Kamloops

Execution

Good progress has been made on the Liaison Officer workplan developed between WMB and DEPI:

- Strong relationships are established with key BC personnel, building intelligence on the fire situation, outlook and anticipated resource needs.
- The likely priority resource types have been identified as IMT, FBAN, Information Officers, Ops Officer with recovery experience, aviation specialists AOM, AAS, ABM, post fire risk assessment/BRAAT specialists.

- The timeline and logistical steps for deployment have been mapped and agreed with BC and DEPI.
- Lessons from past deployments are being integrated into procedures.
- The BC briefing package for out of province crews is being reviewed and tailored for Australian crews.
- Resource cost rates have been quantified based on anticipated deployment duration and pattern.
- Liaison has been established with to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre staff.

Administration

Regular written reports will be forwarded to the DEPI Chief Fire Officer for appropriate circulation. Teleconferences will be arranged as required.

A generic email address of sccvic.international@scc.vic.gov.au has been established for all correspondence from Australia to the Liaison Officers.

Command & Control

Liaison Officers will continue to report to the Chief Fire Officer, DEPI.

Useful links

BC <http://bcwildfire.ca/>

Canada <http://www.cifc.ca/firewire/current.php>

USA <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreport.pdf>

Simon Hemer 0429 157085

Ryan Incolt 0429 397770



Kamloops

British Columbia Liaison SitRep 3

31 July 2014

Situation

There is an increasing likelihood of a formal request for Australian resources this weekend (2/3 Aug). The request is likely to include two full Type 1/Level 3 Incident Management Teams.



Forres Mountain fire

Twenty-four fires have started in the last 24 hours from lightning and 74 fires of note continue to burn across BC, with 186,000 ha burnt year to date (the largest area burnt at this time of year since 1958). 2150 people are assigned to fires.

The southern BC fire season is entering the peak period for fire activity and BC Wildfire Management Branch staff are anticipating a protracted season. The strategic outlook includes above average wildfire starts, probable dry lightning events and ongoing warm and dry trends. Substantial out-of-province resources are deployed in BC and it is likely there will be challenges in obtaining adequate resources within Canada & USA as the season progresses.



Red Deer fire

There is high level of fire activity in North West Territories (>1mill ha), Alberta and the US Pacific North West. British Columbia is at preparedness level 3, Canada at 4, and US at 3 (max=5).



Mesillinka fire

Mission

1. To clearly determine the resource requirements of BC for fire suppression support from Australia for August 2014.
2. To prepare for any potential deployment through establishing in country liaison, developing and sharing strategic situational awareness, establishing resource lists and timeframes, integrating

- lessons from past deployments, updating operating procedures and facilitating arrangements for the rapid request and deployment of Australian resources to the BC fireline.
3. To manage the logistic and liaison role for any eventuating deployment of Australian resources.
 4. To undertake other liaison activities with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and/or US National Interagency Fire Centre as required.



Mount McAllister fire

Execution

Good progress has been made on the Liaison Officer workplan developed between WMB and DEPI:

- Strong relationships are established with key BC personnel, building intelligence on the fire situation, outlook and anticipated resource needs.
- The likely priority resource types have been identified as IMT including FBAN and Information Officers, aviation specialists (AOM, AAS, ABM), Ops Officer with recovery experience and post fire risk assessment/BRAAT specialists.
- The timeline and logistical steps for deployment have been mapped and agreed with BC and DEPI.
- Lessons from past deployments are being integrated into procedures.
- The BC briefing package for out of province crews is being reviewed and tailored for Australian crews.
- Resource cost rates have been quantified based on anticipated deployment duration and pattern.

- Liaison has been established with to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre staff.

Administration

Regular written reports will be forwarded to the DEPI Chief Fire Officer for appropriate circulation. Teleconferences will be arranged as required.

A generic email address of sccvic.international@scc.vic.gov.au has been established for all correspondence from Australia to the Liaison Officers.



Red Deer Fire camp

Command & Control

Liaison Officers will continue to report to the Chief Fire Officer, DEPI.



Forres Mountain fire

Useful links

BC <http://bcwildfire.ca/>

Canada <http://www.cffc.ca/firewire/current.php>

USA <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreport.pdf>

Australian Liaison Officers are based in British Columbia: Ryan Incoil is at the Wildfire Management Branch Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre in Kamloops and Simon Hemer is at Prince George Regional Fire Centre and surrounds.

British Columbia Liaison SitRep 4

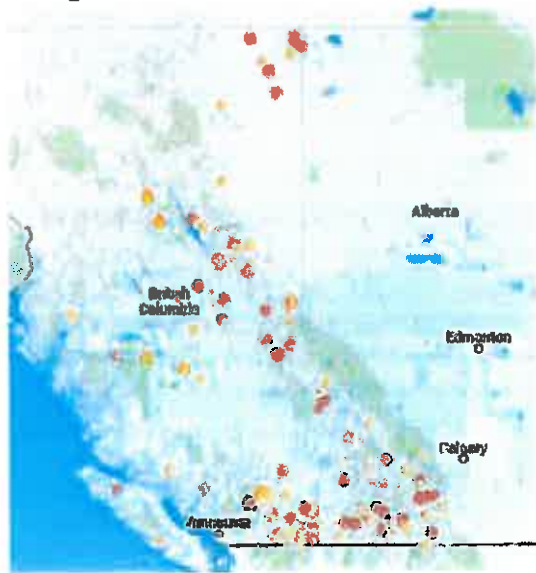
3 August 2014

Situation

A request has been made for resources from Australia to support ongoing fire operations in BC under the *Forest and Interface Fire Management MOU* between the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the British Columbia Ministry for Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

The request covers two Type 1 IMTs of 10 people each, plus 59 single resources. The total request is for 81 people including two Liaison Officers. Staff are required to be in place for shift day one on 12 August.

The IMTs will be deployed in northern BC to G700221 Mount McAllister fire <http://bcwildfire.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp?ID=501> and R10070 Chelasie River fire <http://bcwildfire.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp?ID=497>. Both fires have been burning for the last few weeks and have well established camps and IMTs, and the teams will be taking over from BC type 1 teams. The single resources will initially be staged out of Kamloops and will supplement BC resources in various locations throughout BC. Liaison Officer are likely to be based at Kamloops and at Prince George.



BC wildfires

Fifty five new fires have started in the last 24 hours from lightning, and 86 fires of note continue to burn across BC, with 198,000 ha burnt year to date (the largest area burnt at this time of year since 1958).

A very high level of activity is continuing in North West Territories (>1mill ha), Alberta and the US Pacific North West. British Columbia is at preparedness level 3, Canada at 4, and US at 3.

Substantial out-of-province resources are being maintained in BC, nationally Canadian resources are essentially committed, and the US is unable resources to supply due to high activity levels.



Machine guarded edge, Mount McAllister fire

Mission

1. To clearly determine the resource requirements of BC for fire suppression support from Australia for Aug/Sep 2014.
2. To prepare for the deployment of Australian resources through establishing in country liaison, developing and sharing strategic situational awareness, establishing resource lists and timeframes, integrating lessons from past deployments, updating operating procedures and facilitating arrangements for the rapid request and deployment of Australian resources to the BC fireline.
3. To manage the logistic and liaison role for the deployment of Australian resources.

4. To undertake other liaison activities with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and/or US National Interagency Fire Centre as required.



Forest near Chelaslie River fire

Execution

The Liaison Officer workplan developed between WMB and DEPI is on track:

- A master resource tracking sheet has been established and will be shared between Liaison Officers and DEPI.
- A pre-deployment briefing paper has been prepared with BC staff. BC documentation for incoming crews has been packaged on a shared drive.
- The timeline and logistical steps for deployment have been mapped and agreed with BC and DEPI.
- Strong relationships are established with key BC personnel, building intelligence on the fire situation, outlook and resource needs.
- Lessons from past deployments have been integrated into procedures.
- Resource cost rates have been quantified.
- Liaison is being maintained with Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre staff in BC.



Chelaslie River IMT and camp

Administration

Australian Liaison Officer Simon Hemer is at the Wildfire Management Branch Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre in Kamloops. Ryan Incoll returned to Australia on 2 August. Gil Marshall arrives on 4 August.

Regular written reports continue to be forwarded to the DEPI Chief Fire Officer for appropriate circulation. Teleconferences are continuing on a daily basis.

The generic email address sccvic.international@scc.vic.gov.au is in use for all correspondence from Australia to the Liaison Officers.

Command & Control

Liaison Officers will continue to report to the Chief Fire Officer, DEPI.

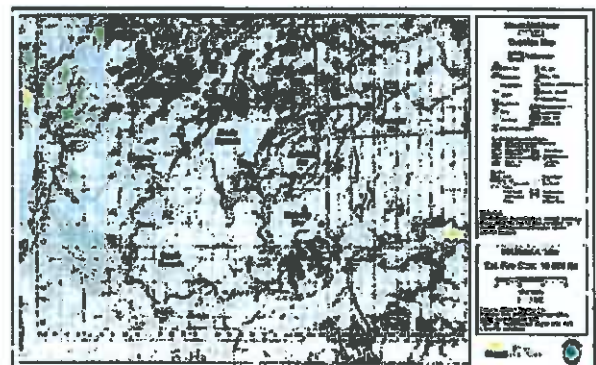
Useful links

BC <http://bcwildfire.ca/>

Canada <http://www.cifc.ca/firewire/current.php>

USA <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreport.pdf>

Simon Hemer 0429 157085



Mount McAllister fire

British Columbia Liaison SitRep 6

7 August 2014

Situation

Arrangements are in place for the arrival of two Australian IMTs on Saturday followed by 53 Single Resources on Monday.

Activity levels remain high throughout BC with 'preparedness condition 4' (on a scale to 5). Twenty seven new fires have started in the last 24 hours, with 238,000 ha burnt in 1,030 fires year to date. Between 200 & 250 new starts are anticipated in the 7 day strategic outlook period (above the long term average of 152).

The weather outlook indicates increasing winds from Saturday, followed by a period of instability with storms and lightning. There is no meaningful rainfall in the 14 day outlook.



Chelasie River fire

National and continental resourcing remains tight with significant fire activity across North West Territories, Alberta and the US Pacific North West.

Mission

1. To clearly determine the resource requirements of BC for fire suppression support from Australia for Aug/Sep 2014.
2. To prepare for the deployment of Australian resources.

3. To manage the logistic and liaison role for the deployment of Australian resources.
4. To undertake other liaison activities with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and/or US National Interagency Fire Centre as required.



Internal burning, Mount McAllister fire

Execution

- Logistical arrangements for inbound crews have been updated given the staggered arrival:

Itinerary
IMTs
Saturday, 9 August 2014
Arrive Vancouver 1145 Welcome and orientation, BC representatives and Australian Liaison Officers Travel to Chilliwack RCMP base (1 hour) Short briefing
Sunday, 10 August 2014
BC Incoming crew briefing Equipment issue, IT logins, software, systems check Travel to Prince George (8 hours), overnight at hotel
Monday, 11 August 2014
Prince George Regional Wildfire Control Centre Briefings Travel to incident, overnight at incident
Tuesday, 12 August 2014
Day 1, Shift 1

Single resources
Monday, 11 August 2014
Arrive Vancouver 2100 Welcome and orientation, BC representatives and Australian Liaison Officers Travel to Chilliwack RCMP base (1 hour)
Tuesday, 12 August 2014
BC Incoming crew briefing Equipment issue, IT logins, software, systems check Deployment to incidents FBANs, AREPS, Single Resource awaiting deployment travel to Kamloops
Wednesday, 13 August 2014
FBAN briefing Deployment to incidents

- Formal greeting of the IMT contingent on Saturday by the Provincial Operations Manager and Information Officer with the Liaison Officers has been arranged.
- Immigration arrangements through Border Security have been made.
- Agreed media messages and press releases between BC and DEPI are in place.
- Details of the first three days have been provided to incoming ICs.
- Specific tasking and locations for the 53 Single Resources is being pursued to ensure known and seamless dispatch to incidents.
- BC computer access is established for all contingent names provided to date.
- The resource tracking sheet is populated with all provided names.
- Liaison Officers will be mobile from Friday afternoon until Tuesday evening greeting inbound crews and assisting with briefings and logistics, and will be accessible via phones

Administration

Australian Liaison Officers Gil Marshall and Simon Hemer are at the Wildfire Management Branch Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre in Kamloops.

Teleconferences are continuing on a daily basis. The generic email address sccvic.international@scc.vic.gov.au is in use for all correspondence from Australia to the Liaison Officers.



Chelasie River fire

Command & Control

Liaison Officers will continue to report to the Chief Fire Officer, DEPI.

Useful links

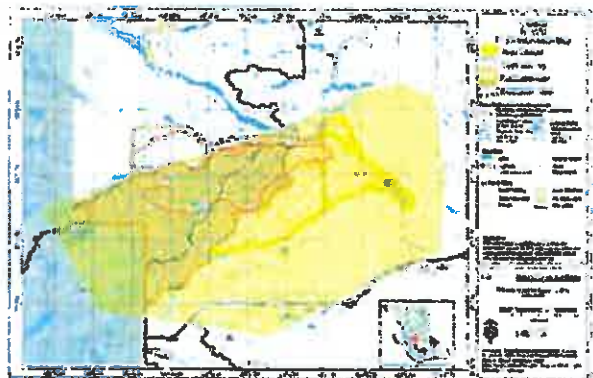
BC <http://bcwildfire.ca/>

Canada <http://www.cffc.ca/firewire/current.php>

USA <http://www.nifc.gov/nics/sitreport.pdf>

Gil Marshall 0409 548851

Simon Hemer 0429 157085



Chelasie River fire

British Columbia Liaison SitRep 7

11 August 2014

Situation

All Australian resources have arrived in BC. Positive local media covered the arrival of the IMTs, see <http://bc.ctvnews.ca/mobile/b-c-adds-80-australians-to-forest-fire-fighting-roster-1.1953138> and <http://globalnews.ca/news/1501204/australian-fire-crews-arrive-to-help-battle-b-c-blazes/>

The two Type 1 IMTs have been briefed at provincial and regional levels, and are arriving at their respective base camps this evening (11 Aug BC time). The teams were assigned to the Chelaslie River fire (Rankin) and the Mount McAllister fire (Rofe). Of the ~196 fires currently in the Province these two fires are prioritised as number 1 and 3. Our people are highly regarded and will be well utilised.



IC Jon Rofe being greeted by Wildfire Management Branch Director Ian Meier, Vancouver

The remaining 53 specialist single resources have arrived over Sunday and Monday, and are being briefed at Chilliwack prior to dispatch across the province. Full dispatch details will evolve over the next few days.

The forecast adverse weather is eventuating with temperatures in the high 30's in the interior ahead of increasing winds, followed by thunderstorms with lightning.



Single resource initial briefing, Chilliwack

Activity levels remain high throughout BC. 196 fires are currently burning with 20 new fires yesterday. The area burnt this year has exceeded 250,000ha.



Provincial media

National and continental resourcing remains tight with significant fire activity continuing across North West Territories, Alberta and the US Pacific North West.



Evening gathering, Chilliwack

Mission

1. To clearly determine the resource requirements of BC for fire suppression support from Australia for Aug/Sep 2014.
2. To manage the logistic and liaison role for the deployment of Australian resources.
3. To undertake other liaison activities with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and/or US National Interagency Fire Centre as required.



Safety messages

Execution

- Communication and critical incident arrangements are in place with new crews.
- Specific tasking and locations for the 53 Single Resources is being pursued to ensure known and seamless dispatch to incidents.

- Call signs and BC computer access have been established.
- The resource tracking sheet is maintained with known deployments and is being used to track routine communications.
- Liaison Officers remain at Chilliwack as briefings and dispatch of single resources continues. Arrangements will be reviewed on Tuesday afternoon considering the level of dispatch of crews.

Administration

Australian Liaison Officers Gil Marshall, Simon Hemer and Elspeth De Fanti will vary location between the Wildfire Management Branch Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre in Kamloops and the field.

Teleconferences are continuing on a daily basis. The generic email address sccvic.international@scc.vic.gov.au is in use for all correspondence from Australia to the Liaison Officers.



Australian staff with Ian Meier, Vancouver

Command & Control

Liaison Officers will continue to report to the Chief Fire Officer, DEPI.

Useful links

BC <http://bcwildfire.ca/>

Canada <http://www.cffc.ca/firewire/current.php>

USA <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreport.pdf>

Gil Marshall 0409 548851

Simon Hemer 0429 157085

Elspeth De Fanti 0459 807225

British Columbia Liaison SitRep 9

18 August 2014

Situation

The 75 Australian resources are deployed across BC as follows:

- 22 staff at R10070 Chelaslie River
- 14 staff at G70221 Mount McAllister
- 13 staff at R20116 China Nose
- 7 staff at Burns Lake in an IMT
- 4 staff at 71W15NA White complex
- 4 staff at C50145 West of Bull Canyon
- 3 staff at the Provincial Wildfire Control Centre at Kamloops
- 2 staff at Smithers fire centre
- 2 staff at Prince George Fire Centre
- 1 staff at G60195 Tenakihi - Mesilinka
- 1 LO at Kamloops
- 2 LOs mobile in the north



Logistics Officer Andrew Hammond at PWCC Kamloops

Activity levels remain high throughout BC with ongoing resource request from the north of the province. 2,200 people are currently on fires, 600 are on rest/preparation, and 900 contract crews and personnel are supporting operations. The challenge of available resource numbers falling as students return to university is looming. WMB are managing 84 active fires with 7 new fires yesterday. The area burnt this year has exceeded 290,000ha.

Normally mid-August sees a decline in BC activity levels, however this year activity continues to escalate. The weather outlook for the next five days indicates some moisture and instability with a moderate risk of lightning and some precipitation.



R10070 Chelaslie River fire

Some deployments are still fluid as resource levels are adjusted to meet the dynamic situation. It is likely that there will be minor adjustments to deployments.

Staff are settling in to their roles. Site visits are underway this week for most northern sites. A 48 hour reporting system has been established across the Australian contingent.



IC John Rofe, G70221 Mount McAllister fire



Burning out operations, R20116 China Nose

Arrangements are being made with WMB staff regarding rest days for the two IMTs, who will break at Smithers. Rankin's team will rest on 21/22 and Rofe's team on 25/26, with coverage provided by a BC IMT. Single Resource rest days will be arranged around IMTs.

A steady flow of photos and short stories is coming in from staff, and updates continue to be prepared for the shared portal at <http://files.portal.em.vic.gov.au/refdocs/SC-C-IILU.htm?v=3>.



China Nose fire

Mission

1. To manage the logistic and liaison role for the deployment of Australian resources.
2. To undertake other liaison activities with CIFFC as required.

Execution

1. Focus is shifting from deployment logistics to supporting staff.
2. Team contacts have been established for all staff.
3. Demobilisation planning will commence this week.



Tracy Culhane at G70221 Mount McAllister fire

Administration

Australian Liaison Officers Gil Marshall, Simon Hemer and Elspeth De Fanti will vary location between the Wildfire Management Branch Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre in Kamloops and the field. Teleconferences are continuing on a daily basis. The generic email address sccvic.international@scc.vic.gov.au is in use for all correspondence from Australia to the Liaison Officers.

Command & Control

Command, control and communication arrangements are in place via Liaison Officers to the Chief Fire Officer, DEPI.

Useful links

BC <http://bcwildfire.ca/>

Canada <http://www.cifc.ca/firewire/current.php>

Gil Marshall 0409 548851

Simon Hemer 0429 157085

Elsbeth De Fanti 0459 807225