

Wildfire Evacuations 1980-2003

Abstract

Every year in Canada, thousands of people are evacuated from their homes and workplaces due to the threat of wildfire, and thousands more are put on evacuation alert. The wildland-urban interface refers to residential, industrial or agricultural developments that are located within or near forested or grassland areas. Each year, more and more Canadians live, work and play in these forested areas and therefore live with the threat of wildfire.

Evacuations are ordered for a number of reasons: danger to life and property, health risks and poor visibility due to smoke, and road closures preventing access to a community. The resulting disruptions to lives, businesses and transportation can have serious economic and social consequences; however, evacuations are essential to save lives and allow management personnel to do their jobs. No civilian lives have been lost due to wildfire in Canada since 1938. This map shows the number of persons evacuated due to wildfires during the period 1980 to 2003.

Map Sources

Forested Areas

Canada is classified into one of eight vegetation cover classes (for example, coniferous forest) using imagery with one kilometre resolution. Satellite imagery is from 1988-1991 period. Canada-Vegetation Cover, Fifth Edition of the National Atlas of Canada. 1993 [map].

Wildfire Evacuations 1980 - 2003

This map shows the number of people evacuated due to wildfires that occurred between the years 1980 and 2003. Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada.

References

Filmon, G. 2004. Firestorm 2003 provincial review. Province of British Columbia, Victoria, British Columbia.

Peter, B.; Wang, S.; Mogus, T.; Wilson, B. 2006. Fire risk and population trends in Canada's wildland-urban interface Pages 37-48 in K.G. Hirsch and P. Fuglem, Technical Coordinators. Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy: background synthesis, analyses, and perspectives. Canadian Council Forest Ministers, Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Northern Forest Centre, Edmonton, Alberta.

2001. Chisholm Fire Review Committee - Final Report Submitted to the Minister of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)

Federal Government

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Archives Series - Fighting Forest Fires
http://archives.cbc.ca/environment/natural_disasters/topics/849/

Library and Archives Canada. S.O.S. Canadian Disasters. Porcupine Fire - July 11, 1911
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/sos/002028-4100-e.html>

Library and Archives Canada. The Miramichi Fire of 1825: Sifting through the Ashes at the National Library of Canada
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/bulletin/015017-0502-03-e.html>

Natural Resources Canada. Canadian Forest Service. Canadian Wildland Fire Information System
http://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/en/index_e.php
The Canadian Wildland Fire Information System creates daily fire weather and fire behavior maps year-round and hot spot maps throughout the forest fire season, generally between May and September.

Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service. Key fire links to Canadian Forest Fire Management Agencies.
<http://fire.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/links-liens-eng.php>
Individual provinces and territories have information about FireSmart programs. This web site provides links to these agencies.

Natural Resources Canada. Canadian Forest Service. National Forest Fire Situation Report
http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/cfsredirects/404_e.html

Natural Resources Canada. Canadian Forest Service. Research: Forest Fires
<http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/forestresearch/subjects/fire>

Natural Resources Canada. Forest Fires in Canada Web site
<http://fire.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.php>
Fire occurrence - This site is useful for monitoring current wildfire status.

Public Safety Canada. Is your family prepared?
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>

Provincial/Territorial Government

Firestorm 2003 provincial review. Province of British Columbia
http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/public/pubdocs/bcdocs/367694/firestorm_report.pdf

Government of Alberta. 2001 Chisholm Fire Report
<http://srd.alberta.ca/FileNotFound.aspx?aspxerrorpath=/wildfires/pdf/Chisholm.pdf>

Government of New Brunswick, Natural Resources. History - Miramichi Fire
http://www.gnb.ca/0249/miramichi_fire-e.asp

Government of Ontario, Ministry of Natural Resources. Aviation and Forest Fire Management Branch.
<http://affm.mnr.gov.on.ca/>

Government of Ontario, Ministry of Natural Resources. The Mississagi Fire
<http://affm.mnr.gov.on.ca/spectrasites/viewers/showArticle.cfm?objectid=BE8AC197-C948-4CB2-9AE006CCB71771C3&method=DISPLAYFULLNOBARNOTITLE&id=BE8AC197-C948-4CB2-9AE006CCB71771C3&siteid=43EC35D1-3969-4666-A821C4FD0353783E>

Inter-agency

Firewise
<http://www.firewise.org/>

A United States web site that will help you learn to protect yourself, your family, your home, and your community against wildfire.

Partners in Protection
<http://www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca/>

Web site that will help you protect yourself, your family, your home, and your community against wildfire.

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
<http://www.cifffc.ca/>

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) provides operational fire-control services, as well as management and information services to its Member Agencies.

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre - Forest-Fire Links
<http://www.cifffc.ca/links.htm>

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