



International Cooperation

British Columbia Forest Service Protection Program International Cooperation

Fighting Forest Fires in British Columbia

As the forest industry is the province's number one source of revenue, it is imperative that British Columbia maintain a directed and efficient fire control program. We are proud to operate at a 94% success rate, meaning that 94% of all fires are contained to less than 4 hectares within 24 hours of detection. During peak fire season, we maintain a full-time fire suppression staff of approximately 800 professionally trained firefighters, 12 fixed-wing aircraft, and 18 helicopters. In addition, a core of approximately 250 research and operations personnel are responsible for the on-going development of the program. British Columbia forest fire management expertise is a result of close to 90 years of on-going development; a fact which many foreign governments have recognized in the development of their own programs.



International Cooperation

In light of the increasing emphasis on environmental concerns within the forest industry, and the recognition of the need to be prepared for forest fires, international cooperation in forest protection is becoming more important. With the rise in international activity, the British Columbia Forest Service, Protection Program has made it a priority to share its firefighting experience with countries around the world. The goal is to assist other agencies create the most cost efficient and operationally effective program possible in the context of their fire control and prevention requirements.

Over the past several years, the British Columbia Forest Service, Protection Program has been fortunate to work with agencies around the world, working to improve their fire fighting capabilities while providing valuable contributions to different cultural, social, and political environments.

In addition to providing assistance in North America, the British Columbia Forest Service, Protection Program has been involved throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, Central and South America. We have worked with the following countries:



- Norway
- Italy
- Slovenia
- Greece
- Portugal
- Turkey
- Belarus
- Ukraine
- Russia
- Spain
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Hungary
- South Korea
- China
- Ghana
- Mexico
- Colombia
- Honduras
- Ecuador
- Peru
- Brazil
- Chile
- South Africa
- New Zealand
- Australia
- Sweden
- France



Fire suppression and fire management training programs are available upon request.

Training Modules

- Standardized training curriculum
- Classroom theory and practical exercises
- Initial attack and expanded attack concepts
- Fire suppression strategies and techniques
- Aerial fire suppression methods
- Fire prevention and public awareness
- Fire management - strategic planning



Fire Suppression Courses

- Fundamentals of Fire Fighting
- Fire Behavior and Safety
- Fire Cause Investigation
- Fireline Communications
- Incident Commander
- Pumps & Water Delivery Systems
- Helicopter Use and Safety

- Air Tanker Safety & Operations
- Aviation Management
- Fundamentals of Prescribed Burning
- Burning Off and Backfiring
- Helipad Construction and Hover Exit

*** Training modules can be conducted in British Columbia, or customized for delivery overseas.**



International Cooperation Phases

- **Tours and Visits**
 - program overview and operational tour
 - information sharing and communications
 - exposure to technologies and expertise
 - assess needs and requirements
- **Basic Training Program**
 - basic/advanced fire fighter training
 - training curriculum and development
 - customized training programs
 - fire fighter exchanges
- **Advanced Training Program**
 - senior fire management training
 - strategic planning and agency development
 - operational mentoring programs
 - customized training programs
 - consulting services
- **Cooperation Agreements and Projects**
 - mutually beneficial cooperation agreements
 - project development and technology transfer
 - collaboration on proposals to international development agencies
 - develop long-term linkages and relationships



The fire season in British Columbia provides an excellent opportunity to 'show case' the British Columbia Forest Service, Protection Program's fire prevention and control operations to international visitors. Several hundreds of physically fit, well-trained, professional firefighters are employed to suppress thousands of wildfire incidents in British Columbia every year. In addition, a wide-range of multi-purpose planes and helicopters are utilized to support the ground crews' efforts. Real-time satellite emergency resource tracking technology, centralized dispatch, experienced management and hundreds of administrative staff, all working together as a team to safely and effectively suppress thousands of wildfires in a timely manner. As world-wide cyclical weather patterns create explosive wildfire conditions throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, the British Columbia Forest Service, Protection Program can be relied on to provide knowledgeable, technical advice to our global partners in need.



For more information... about our leading technology and knowledgeable expertise, we invite you to contact:



The British Columbia Forest Service
Protection Program
P.O. Box 9502, Stn. Provincial Government
Victoria, B.C., Canada, V8W 9C1
Phone: (250) 387-5965 Fax: (250) 387-5685
Website: www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect