



## **WILDFIRE FACT SHEET (June, 2003)**

### **WILDFIRE RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN SASKATCHEWAN**

#### **Land and Property Owners**

1. Responsibility to control wildland fuels contributing to wildfire.
2. Responsible to control and monitor any wildfires on their property
3. Obtain insurance to cover: property loss and damage from wildfire and for fire suppression costs.
4. Provide some self-insurance through basic fire fighting equipment – shovel, pump, water supply, etc.

#### **Saskatchewan Environment**

**1-800-953-3473**

Pursuant to: *The Prairie and Forest Fire Act, 1982*

1. Wildfire suppression action within the Provincial Forest as defined in the Forest Management Act, provincial parks, recreation sites, and vacant Crown lands (not leased Crown lands.)
2. Wildfire suppression action on all lands within 4.5 km of the Provincial Forest.
3. May assist municipalities (if requested) with wildfires (outside the 4.5 km buffer zone from Provincial Forest) on a cost recovery basis, dependant on available resources and requirements in mandated area.
4. Provides fire suppression services on a contractual basis, to some First Nations Reserves under Federal/Provincial Agreement and on some federal land such as Primrose Air Weapons Range.
5. Authority to implement fire bans within burning permit area of Saskatchewan.
6. Authority to enforce The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982.
7. Investigates wildfires for cause and origin in Saskatchewan Environment's area of responsibility.
8. Provide information on status of fires to municipalities for their consideration in declaring evacuations.

#### **Municipalities**

1. Wildfire suppression action for all lands within the municipalities jurisdiction, (includes leased Crown lands and regional parks)
2. Wildfire suppression response/action within 4.5 km of the Provincial Forest (joint responsibility with Saskatchewan Environment). Buildings, vehicles, and private yard fires are the responsibility of the Rural Municipality, wildfires within the 4.5 km zone are the responsibility of S.E.
3. Any fire within the boundaries of a city, town, village or any other municipal corporation is the responsibility of that urban municipality.
4. May declare a local emergency under Emergency Planning Act.

5. May pass by-laws in respect to fire safety, consistent with The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982.
6. Under the authority of the Emergency Planning Act Municipalities shall:
  - appoint a local EMO coordinator,
  - establish a local emergency measures organization (EMO)
  - develop a municipal emergency response plan.

### **Saskatchewan Emergency Planning**

1. Assist municipalities with development of emergency plans.
2. Provide technical assistance for emergency situations and evacuations.
3. Provide provincial coordination for disaster emergencies and evacuations.
4. Coordinate development of Department's provincial emergency plans.

### **Office of the Fire Commissioner**

1. Promote and encourage municipal efforts in fire prevention and the protection of life and property.
2. Encourage and support firefighter training programs by municipal fire departments and regional training districts.
3. Co-ordinate the investigation of fire cause, origin and circumstance with local authorities, Partner with S.E. in the investigation of wildfires.
4. Maintain provincial records detailing every fire incident in Saskatchewan.
5. Assist local authorities in conducting fire risk assessments and help develop appropriate community fire safety plans.

### **Department of Highways and Transportation**

1. Responsible for closure and re-opening of highways/roads affected by wildfire.

### **Department of Social Services**

1. Responsible to inventory persons displaced by a wildfire evacuation and provide for their care: accommodation, sustenance, transportation, and special needs.
2. May assist in evacuations.

### **Department of Health**

1. Monitors smoke pollution and may order evacuations of residents due to effects of smoke concerns.

### **Royal Canadian Mounted Police or Municipal Police Force**

1. Enforce road closures for safety reasons and assist with rural evacuations
2. Provides security in communities evacuated due to wildfire.
3. Enforce provincial regulations.