

Prince George and Area Wildfire Roundtable

October 29, 2024

Tabletop Exercise - Wildfire Scenario

This tabletop exercise is intended to drive discussions around a simulated emergency, gain a higher level of understanding of roles and duties as they pertain to those organizations who are responsible for actioning a fire and those who are responsible for the people and communities near a fire. It is also to provide an opportunity for questions and discussion around the table pertaining to possible roles and responsibilities of others in the community when responding to a wildfire situation. Through this exercise we also want to identify potential gaps in knowledge, resources or actions, identifying additional mitigation and preparedness needs.

Our scenario is a lightning-caused wildfire that has started just north of City limits. The exercise will begin with key personnel (those assigned emergency management roles and responsibilities) communicating to the group how this situation will first unfold. *Who gets the call, what happens from there, who needs to be involved, how are these decisions made* etc. The order in which discussions will begin is as follows:

1. BC Wildfire Service – Answers the call (report of wildfire)
2. EMCR (focused on people and communities)
3. Communities - RDFFG, City PG and Lheidli T'enneh
4. Facilitated Dialogue; roundtable discussion/questions – based on the scenario consider your potential role(s) and responsibilities

All members of the roundtable will have an opportunity to share the actions they would take in this emergency, testing their emergency plan(s)/knowledge in an informal, low stress environment.

Wildfire Scenario Description

- An unexpected and rare April (spring) thunderstorm lit up the skies over Prince George.
- The storm began northeast of Prince George near Table River, making its way south and west over PG.
- The storm came on the heels of a drought year followed by little to no snow accumulation over the winter.
- The storm was the result of a warm moist wind clashing with a cold, dry arctic air mass.
- Three lightning strikes have started fires, and two of these fires are merging.
- The wind is moving from the northeast to the southwest at approximately 30 km/h with gusts up to 60 km/h expected.
- The fires are spreading through mixed forests, and it is pre-green up.
- Drought and unseasonably warm and dry conditions have contributed to lower fuel moisture and increased fire behaviour potential to what would be considered typical at this time of year. Current and forecasted weather favours fire spread to the southwest at rates and intensity that will challenge containment efforts.
 - The location on the attached map is 54° 3' 50.2704" N 122° 38' 19.9464" W; of note:
 - Fires are currently on the west side of the Fraser River
 - The fires are overlapping with the Lheidli T'enneh Nation's northern community
 - They started southeast of W1199 and southwest of W1554
 - BCR tracks, pipeline corridor and transmission lines are close