

---

## SUMMARY

December 2012

### **REPORT ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF THE WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT BRANCH**

In December 2009, the Ministry of Forests and Range requested Internal Audit & Advisory Services (IAAS) undertake a review of the financial management environment with the Wildfire Management Branch. The purpose was to review financial management processes within the branch to identify opportunities to streamline financial management and/or assist fire staff to more efficiently and practically meet key financial management requirements.

In its review, the IAAS found the branch has a strong focus on operations with reviews and analysis continually performed to ensure effectiveness in managing wildfires throughout the province. Reviewers found the level of attention and focus on improvement with financial and administrative matters was not as evident as it could be. IAAS found the Wildfire Management Branch could improve its financial management practices by applying the same risk-based approach used in operations to its financial and administrative functions.

The IAAS made 20 recommendations for improvement to the Wildfire Management Branch and these have all been addressed.

The Wildfire Management Branch is tasked with managing wildfires on both Crown and private lands outside of organized areas such as municipalities and regional districts. The branch's mandate is to provide wildfire management and emergency response support to protect life and assets, particularly forest and grass lands, as provided for under legislation, government plans and cost-sharing agreements.

Media Contact: Vivian Thomas  
Communications Manager  
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
250 356-2475