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WILDFIRE SEASON

Wildfire season is off to a record-setting start, and conditions remain hot and dry in many parts of the province. With the recent evacuations of Tumbler Ridge and the evolving threat of wildfires, we are reminding mining operations to be prepared for wildfires. How prepared is your mine for wildfires; have you considered how wildfires may impact the continuity of your operations?



Things to consider:

- Fire prevention strategies to reduce the chance of starting wildfires while in operation
- Mine staff may be impacted by evacuations or experience the loss of property
- Mine sites may fall within evacuation order areas and need to be evacuated quickly
- Ponds, tailings facilities, and other parts of the mine may be used for fire suppression and staging
- Wildfires may threaten mine property and infrastructure

Mine Emergency Response Plan (MERP):

- What happens if a wildfire threatens the mine site?
- Are staff familiar with the MERP and, possibly, wildfire response procedures?
- How quickly can the mine site be safely shut down and secured during an evacuation?
- Does the site have secondary egress options if primary exits are threatened by wildfire?
- Are there potential impacts to on-site water management if ponds are used for fire suppression?
- Are explosives magazines secure, or do the explosives require emergency removal or relocation?

Effective wildfire planning and preparation should consider the unique impacts a wildfire may have on your operation. Ensure staff are up-to-date on wildfire conditions and understand what to do during a wildfire, including activating the MERP. Additionally, consider training mine workers in basic wildfire response and fire suppression. Lastly, mine managers are encouraged to contact their regional fire center for general information on wildfire-related preparedness.

Helpful Resources

- [Wildfire Service - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-service)
- [Emergency management in B.C. - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management-in-bc)
- [Weather Information - Environment Canada](https://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo/)
- [Explosives \(canada.ca\)](https://www2013.safety.gc.ca/)
- [Wildfire safety tips at home and at work: How to stay safe | Workplace Safety North](#)