Learner Objectives
After this session, you will be familiar with the following:

- Wildfire management roles and responsibilities of various parties in the Province of Alberta.
- The general purpose of the Fire Control Zone Regulation, Forest Protection Area Regulation and Non-Permit Area Regulation.
- The five priorities (values at risk) for wildfire management in Alberta.

Learner Objectives
After this session, you will be familiar with the following:

- The jurisdictional authority in the Province of Alberta (Forest Protection Area, Municipal Districts, Municipalities).
- How the Forest and Prairie Protection Act and Regulations relate to the practice of forestry.
- The significance of Section 75 of the Municipal Government Act in regards to wildfire prevention and suppression.
Learner Objectives

After this session, you will be familiar with the following:

• The three FireSmart Zones and debris management requirements specific to the FireSmart Community Zone.
• The dates of the official fire season in Alberta.
• Fire Control Agreements and Fire Control Plans.

Presentation Outline

• Wildfire Management Legislation
• Fire Control Agreements and Fire Control Plans
• Provincial Priorities
• FireSmart Overview
• Wildfire Reviews
• Questions

Wildfire Management Legislation

• *Forest and Prairie Protection Act (FPPA)*
• *Forest and Prairie Protection Regulations Parts I* and *II*
• *Fire Control Zone Regulation*
• *Forest Protection Area Regulation*
• *Non-Permit Area Regulation*
• *Municipal Government Act (Section 75)*
The Forest and Prairie Protection Act

The Framework

Forest and Prairie Protection Act

- Basis for administration of wildfire prevention and management.
- Act provides authority for the Forest and Prairie Protection Regulations.
- Act applies to the entire Province of Alberta.
- Exceptions are Urban Municipalities (Cities, towns, villages, summer villages) and Federal Lands (Section 2).
- However, Section 6 - Fire Control Agreements allow the Minister to enter into a fire control agreement on the lands mentioned as exceptions.

The Forest and Prairie Protection Act

Key Sections
Forest and Prairie Protection Act

Fire Control Agreements - Section 6

The Minister may, with a view to ensuring the prevention and control of forest and prairie fires, enter into a fire control agreement,

(a) with any person carrying on any industrial or commercial operation over, under, on or adjacent to public land with respect to that operation,

(b) with the Government of Canada with respect to land in or adjacent to Alberta that belongs to that Government or that is under its administration and control,

(c) with the government of any province or territory, or

(d) with the council of a municipal district or urban municipality with respect to land within its boundaries or under its control.

Forest and Prairie Protection Act

Fire Control Agreements - Section 6

Continued...

If a FMA holder enters into a Fire Control Agreement with the Minister, what is required?

• A Fire Control Plan submitted annually.

What are the components of a Fire Control Plan submitted by the forest industry?
Fire Control Plan – Minimum Requirements

• Name of the Company's Forest Protection Coordinator.
• The company duty roster and 24 hr. contacts.
• Names off all Fire Guardians.
• A list of company personnel and their ESRD Wildfire Management Branch certification.
• A complete list of fire suppression equipment and the location of the equipment.
• A list of heavy equipment owned by the company and how the equipment can be adapted for wildfire suppression.

Fire Control Plan – Minimum Requirements Continued...

• A list of equipment owned by contractors and how the equipment can be adapted for wildfire suppression.
• A description of the planned locations of the above equipment and contact information for contractors/operators.
• A plan showing the location and availability of all communications equipment.
• A list of any weather reporting stations and equipment.

Fire Control Plan – Minimum Requirements Continued...

• A description of contingencies for fire patrols, shift periods, and shut downs in the event of a Ministerial closure impacting the FMA.
• Maps
• Description of crew movements.
• Description of how the company will ensure the minimum amount of equipment to meet the regulations and how the company will inspect for to meet this requirement.
• A description of the company’s wildfire training activities.
Forest and Prairie Protection Act

The Fire Season - Section 17

(1) The period from April 1 to October 31 in each year is the fire season for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Minister may at any time extend or shorten the fire season for any area of Alberta. Has started March 1!

Forest and Prairie Protection Act

Outdoor Fires - Section 18

• (1) No person shall light or cause to be lit an outdoor fire during fire season on land in a permit area unless that person holds a fire permit.

• (4) This section does not apply to an attended outdoor camp fire which has been lit for cooking or warming purposes.

Forest and Prairie Protection Act

Fire Control Plans - Section 23

• (1) A person carrying on or having charge of an industrial or commercial operation on public land or within one kilometre of any public land shall at the Minister’s request submit to the Minister for the Minister’s approval a fire control plan.

• (2) The Minister may, by order, suspend the operations of any person until a satisfactory fire control plan has received the Minister’s approval.

• Also applies to Fire Control Agreements with the Minister – a fire control plan will be requested.
Forest and Prairie Protection Act

Fire Fighting Equipment - Section 24

- A person carrying on or having charge of an industrial or commercial operation in or within one kilometre of any public land shall have on hand fire fighting equipment in accordance with the regulations capable of controlling and suppressing any fire that may occur directly or indirectly as a result of the operation.

The Forest and Prairie Protection Regulations

Part I

The Regulations - Part I

- Deals with the precautionary measures in terms of the following:
  - Activities (Industrial/Recreational)
  - Fire Permits
  - Fuel free buffer zones
  - Equipment and number of tools required on site
- Also explains the following:
  - Forest Area Closures
  - Conscription exemptions
  - Legal forms (Permits and Orders to Reduce or Remove a Fire Hazard.)
The Forest and Prairie Protection Regulations
Part II

The Regulations - Part II

• Debris Disposal

• Conduct of Firefighting Operations

• Pollution and Erosion Control Measures

Municipal Government Act
Section 75

• A municipal district (MD) may not pass a bylaw regarding fires that applies to part of the MD in FPA.

• Despite the above, a MD may pass a bylaw respecting fires, other than forest or running fires, that applies to the part of a hamlet that is within the Forest Protection Area.

• Sections 4 (2 and 3), 7 & 19 (2) of the Forest and Prairie Protection Act do not apply to the portion of a MD within the FPA. (guardians, firefighting, permits)
Forest Protection Area Regulation

- Creates the Forest Protection Area (FPA).
- FPA includes all Forest Management Units (FMUs) and portions of MDs and Counties.
- FPA is based on the following:
  - Political considerations
  - Ecological considerations
  - Timber Management
  - Practical fire control considerations

The Non-Forest Protection Area:
- Local governments are responsible for:
  - Maintaining provisions of the FPPA
  - Permit issuance
  - Wildfire Suppression
  - Costs associated with fire suppression
Fire Control Zone Regulation

- Breaks the FPA up into numbered locations.
- Purpose is to provide management boundaries for the implementation of fire bans, fire control orders, etc.

Jurisdiction - ESRD and Municipalities

Roles and Responsibilities are as follows:

- **Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development** assumes responsibility for the Forest Protection Area.
- **Local Municipal Governments** assume responsibility for the Non-Forest Protection Area. (Including fire permit issuance.)

Non-Permit Area Regulation

- Non-Permit Areas (Small portion of the province)
  - No fire permit required for anytime of year.
  - Ministerial Orders still apply to these areas.
  - Must still enforce provisions of the FPPA. (Aside from fire permits.)
Wildfire Management Priorities in Alberta

Priorities
1. Human Life
2. Communities
3. Sensitive Watersheds & Soils
4. Natural Resources
5. Infrastructure

(Ranked highest to lowest priority.)

FireSmart

• What is FireSmart?
• Three Zones – One Concept
• Debris Management Standards

FireSmart Zones

• Three Zone – One Concept
  • Wildland/Urbam Interface
  • FireSmart Community Zone
  • Landscape Zone
FireSmart and Directives

• Debris Management Standards for Timber Harvest Operations
  • Zero pile retention in FireSmart Community Zones.
  • Specifies pile and windrow retention permitted on the Landscape.

Flat Top Complex Wildfire Review Committee

• Completed in 2012
• Response to the Slave Lake (Flat Top Complex) 2011
• Contained 21 Recommendations
• Major influence on how ESRD’s Wildfire Management Branch conducts business
• Recommendations include areas such as prevention, preparedness, communications, organization/incident management, post-wildfire business resumption, policy/procedures/legislation and research/development

Flat Top Complex Wildfire Review Committee

• In September 2013, the Government of Alberta formally accepted all 21 recommendations contained in the Flat Top Complex Wildfire Review Committee report.
• Any major wildfire events—will have after action reviews or formal reviews with recommendations (2001 Chisholm Fire Review, 1998 Alberta Fire Review).
Common Misunderstandings

- Forest and Prairie Protection Act and Regulations only apply to the Forest Protection Area - **False**
- Municipal districts do not have the same authority level under the Act to deal with problems within the Non-Forest Protection Area - **False**

Summary

- Five Priorities
- FPPA and Regulations Part I and II
- Other Related Legislation
- List Components of a Fire Control Plan
- FireSmart
- Wildfire Reviews

Questions?
Contact

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