



BC Wildfire
Service

The 2017 After Action Review

THE IMPACT OF THE 2017 WILDFIRE SEASON



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- The 2017 fire season was unprecedented in size and scope.
- At its peak it involved over 4700 personnel and the participation of 3 countries
- Over the course of the longest provincial state of emergency in our history, over 65,000 people were evacuated.
- Long reaching social and economic effects to many communities
- BCWS, its partnering agencies, as well as many local stakeholders were stretched to maximum capacity

IN RESPONSE: AFTER ACTION REVIEWS



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- The 2017 wildfire and freshet After Action Review had four components:
 - **Tier 1** – Organization specific response review
 - **Tier 2** – Provincial inter-ministry & agency response review
 - **Tier 3** – Province and partners response review
 - **Tier 4** – Provincial level response review
- Tiers 1-3 were operational level reviews led by the Province
- Tier 4 is an independent review of the Province's response to the 2017 wildfire and freshet events, led by George Abbott & Chief Maureen Chapman



RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS



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The Report: Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia

The recommendations provide guidance in four key areas:

- **Planning and preparedness:** governance, process, communications, capacity and resources
- **Prevention and mitigation:** management practices, economic costs and benefits, and capacity and resources
- **Response:** governance, process, internal and external organizational communications, tactical efforts, capacity and resources
- **Recovery:** governance, process, internal and external organizational communications, and capacity and resources

Some of the recommendations identified and initiated internally:

- Establish Indigenous Peoples as true partners and leaders in emergency management
- Provide support to First Nations government and communities to enhance their role and capacity
- Governments should commit to finalizing and exercising the provisions of the Canada-BC Emergency Management Services Funding Agreement
- Strengthen public understanding of risks and personal responsibilities of living in a fire-dependent. Encourage public participation in emergency preparedness
- Develop strategic partnerships and operational agreements with key community members and stakeholders to increase response capacity and promote resilience

Long term goals and strategic planning:

- Many of the recommendations report are longer term in nature.
- They may require legislative changes and potentially involve other levels of government.
- We continue to focus on improving land and resource management that will directly help with preparations and response to future fire and flood seasons.
- Continue our focus on building stronger partnerships with First Nations and with key local stakeholders to take a more holistic approach to land and resource management.

Questions?



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