



# CFA Conference 2019

13 June 2019. Mission, BC

Presentation by: **Khowutzun Forest Services**

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# The 4 Pillars of Disaster Management: Community Forest Leadership & Innovation



- ▶ Response from KFS: The Voice of Experience



# Khowutzun Forest Services

- partnership with Cowichan Tribes



- Cowichan Tribes: most populous First Nation in BC; pop >5000
- Centred in Cowichan Valley, SE Vancouver Island
- High reliance on social assistance
- Majority of population < 35 yrs of age





KFS: valuable opportunities for band members

→ forestry and forest fire fighting



# Khowitzun Forest Services (KFS)



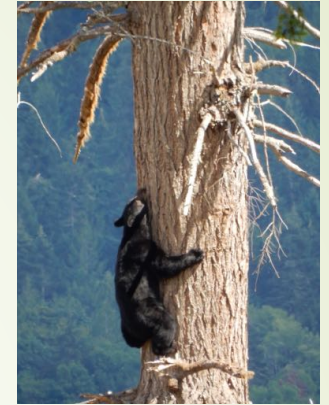
- Est. 1999. Based in Duncan
  - Most successful company in Khowitzun Group of Companies
  - Only company in KDC that has operated continually since 1999
- Employment and training for Cowichan Tribes
- Supplies forest management planning, silvicultural & related services to the forest sector:
  - incl. forest fire fighting



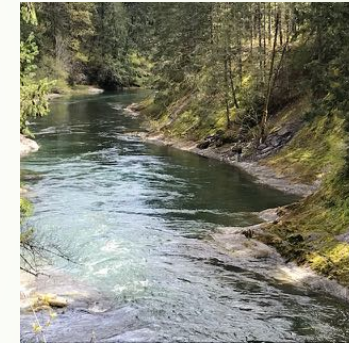
# KFS Community Forest



# KFS CFA: High Values



- Cultural
- Wildlife / Biodiversity
- Fisheries
- Water Quality
- Recreation
- Research











Featured in the woods in Cowichan Valley...  
 Mustangs make fire-fighting practical...

**Cowichan Valley Citizen**

**Aircraft battle Skutz Falls wildfire**

**The hottest paint jobs.**



**Fire Departments:  
 We've been lucky so far...**



**Cowichan's first wildfire of the season extinguished near Lake Cowichan April 28 2019**

The chief said it was “extremely timely” that crews were able to respond so quickly.

“It’s extremely dry out there right now and I’m warning people that are going to go out into the bush this weekend to play it safe and try to restrict fires to a minimum if not at all.”

B.C.’s Coastal Fire Centre said the fire grew to about 1.5 hectares before firefighters got it under control.

The fire, which was determined to have been caused by humans, is one of 7 the CFC has dealt with so far this spring in coastal areas, with the usual number at this time of the year around 4.





## KFS Warriors – Fire fighting crews

**2018:** 9 crews dispatches across BC; **2019:** 12 crews ready to go

# Planning and Coordination



# 5 Person Fire Crew

- 1 crew leader
- 4 fire fighters

## Crew will have:

- 1 First Aid Attendant Level 1 w Transport Endorsement
- Power Saw Operator
- Pump Operator
- 1 Certified WDT Assessor



# Fire Fighter

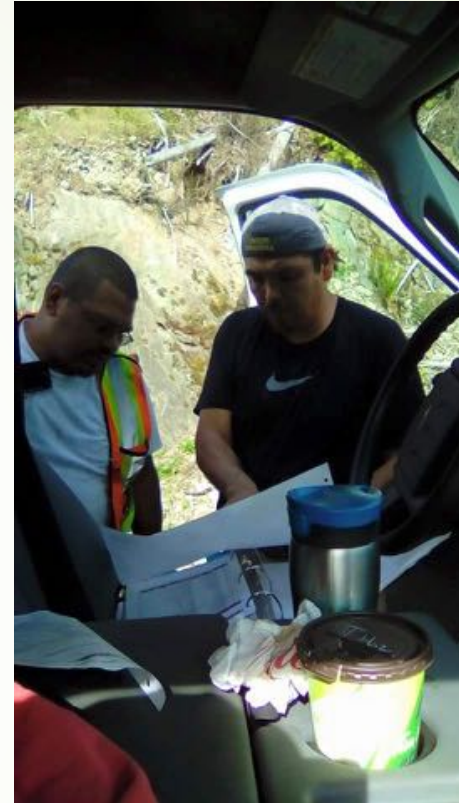
- \$100
- \$185
- 5 days firefighting experience
- Annual Physical



# Crew Leader

- S100 Basic Fire Suppression
- S 185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance
- S212 Fire Line Communication
- S230 Introduction to Supervision
- S235 Burnoff and Backfires
- ICS 100

Crew Leader – 3 fires or 20 days as firefighter  
Annual Physical Fitness





# Strike Team Leader / Task Force Leader

- ▶ S100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety or equivalent (annual re-currency)
- ▶ S185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance
- ▶ S211 Fire Environment for Firefighters/Dispatchers
- ▶ S212 Fire-line Communications or Restricted Radio Operators License
- ▶ S213 Use of Bulldozers and Heavy Equipment
- ▶ Successful completion basic chainsaw operator's course or demonstrated experience as chainsaw operator
- ▶ ICS 100/200
- ▶ S230 Introduction to Supervision (Crew Boss)
- ▶ S235 Burn-off and Backfiring
- ▶ S241 Fire Assessment

Crew Leader 5 projects

Annual Physical Fitness Test





**Costs:** \$900 to suit up  
\$\$\$\$ Training  
\$400-\$2000 Mandatory Drug Testing

**Significant Investments**

**New 2018 – Type 2 Crews**





# Pro-active Responses – Clean-up; Security Patrols; SIFMO



# Fibre Recovery – Interface Areas



# CRIP FireSmart Project



- \$60,000+ Grant 2019-20
- Cowichan Tribes reserve lands – High Wildfire Risk
- 7 Disciplines of FireSmart
  - Vegetation Management
  - Public Education
  - Legislation
  - Development
  - Planning
  - Cross-Training
  - Interagency Cooperation





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