

# Manitoba's Coordinated Response to Wildfires



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## OVERSIGHT:

In Manitoba, the lead agency for wildfires or forest fires on Crown land is the Wildfire Program of Manitoba Sustainable Development. In a busy year, this program could be managing hundreds of fires, many simultaneously.

Experienced staff members in the program are responsible for:

- monitoring weather, lightning strikes, forest conditions;
- prevention of wildfires through efforts including FireSmart activities;
- detection and suppression of wildfires;
- determining priority wildfires and managing all fire fighting resources including firefighters, aircraft and suppression equipment.

## RESOURCES:

The Wildfire Program hires and trains about 350 firefighters each season. It also oversees a fleet of six water bombers, numerous helicopters and thousands of pieces of equipment, from tanker trailers and fire pumps, to kilometres of hose.

## RESPONSE:

Manitoba Wildfire Program is the lead agency for suppression of fire on Crown lands. In the event of a wildfire not on Crown land, as with most emergencies, the local authority or municipality has a key role. If a wildfire exhausts a municipality's fire fighting capacity, it would call for mutual aid from neighbouring communities. If that is not an option, or if a wildfire spreads rapidly, then the Wildfire Program of Manitoba Sustainable Development

would be called upon through the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) or the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

As well, several small wildfires or a complex wildfire can require municipal and provincial resources to work together to contain the fire, help save lives, prevent injuries to people and firefighters and minimize property loss.

Manitoba Sustainable Development is also a member of the [Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre in Canada](#) and the [Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact](#) in the U.S. This membership allows Manitoba to share forest fire fighting resources, as well as training and prevention strategies, between other member agencies nationally and internationally.