



WILDFIRE RESILIENCY AND TRAINING SUMMIT

WILDFIRE RESILIENCY AND TRAINING SUMMIT

PROGRAM

APRIL 8 – 12, 2026

Victoria, BC



For more information visit wildfiresummit.ca

The Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit acknowledges with gratitude that the event is taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation.

Event Information



Access the Event App (iOS and Android)

Scan the QR code below and download the Event App to view all event information from your device, such as the event agenda, speaker details, venue information, but also connect with other attendees, and more.



Android



iOS

Event App Code: WRTS2026

Login Info: Enter your email address and App PIN (included in the email sent to you prior to the event).

If you have any issues accessing the Event App, please contact us at wrts@pacegroup.com.

Wi-Fi Information

Network: Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit

PW: WRTS2026

Code of Conduct

The Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit is dedicated to providing a positive and harassment-free event experience for everyone. To that end, FireSmart BC has partnered with Spot as a resource to report incidents of misconduct that contravene the event's Code of Conduct policy. If you experience or witness any inappropriate behaviour, please report it to the event organizers or use the below QR code to access the Spot reporting tool. Thank you for helping to make this a welcoming, friendly space for all.

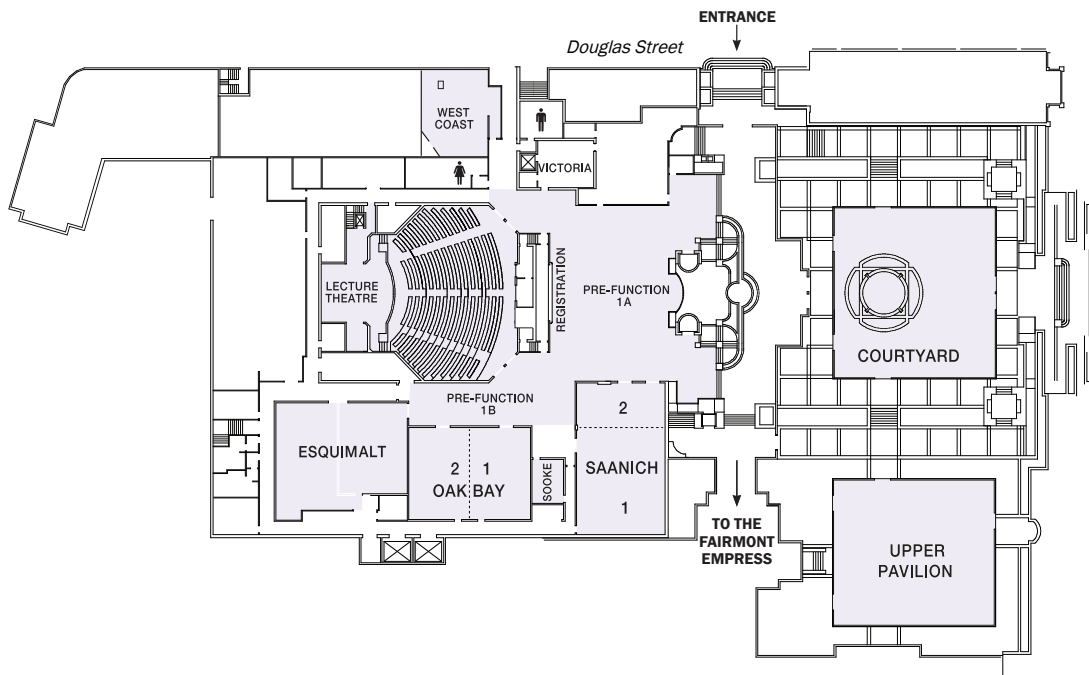


Talk to Spot

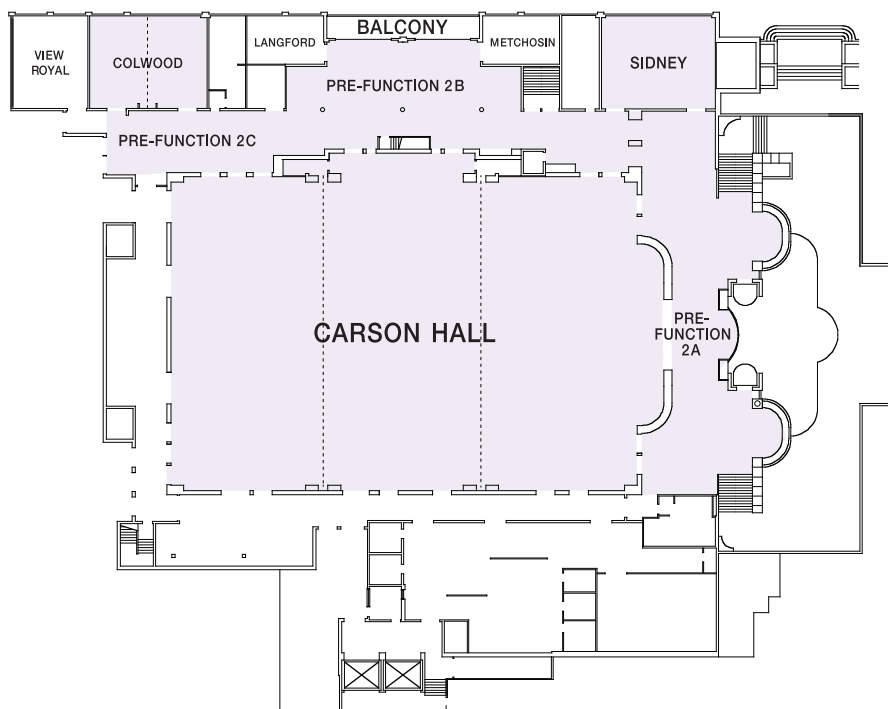


Victoria Conference Centre

LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



Event Information



Welcome!

Welcome to the 2026 Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit in Victoria, hosted on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation. This year's theme, Collective Action: Empowering Communities, reflects our shared commitment to working together for a safer, more resilient future.

With wildfire seasons starting sooner, lasting longer, and impacting more communities across the province, the need for fire resilience has never been greater. Prolonged heat, drought, and other climate change effects make year-round fire preparedness a critical priority. As another challenging wildfire season approaches, our ability to collaborate and share information will be essential to strengthening wildfire resilience and keeping our communities safe.



More than 700 firefighting professionals, FireSmart experts and Indigenous, municipal and community leaders will gather in Victoria to learn and share the latest research, technologies, and best practices, to prepare for the upcoming wildfire season. I encourage you to make the most of the valuable opportunities the Summit will provide to celebrate existing partnerships, build new connections, and learn from one another throughout the week.

On behalf of our Summit organizers and attendees, thank you to our host Nations, Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation. I also want to thank our many partners and sponsors for their support of this year's Summit, as well as the members of our Advisory, FireSmart BC and Training Groups for their tireless work.

On behalf of myself, the BC FireSmart Committee, and all of the staff who have worked to make this event happen, we hope your experience will be positive, inspiring and meaningful.

Thank you all for coming.
Let's get to work!

Rachel Woodhurst

Chair, BC FireSmart Committee

Event Information



Mariana Ruiz-Temple | State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal

Mariana Ruiz-Temple is a distinguished public safety leader with extensive expertise in fire service operations, emergency management, and strategic partnerships. For more than three decades, Mariana has held progressively senior roles, demonstrating a commitment to enhancing public safety through innovation and strategic initiatives. Beyond operational leadership, Mariana is deeply engaged in shaping fire service policy and advancing the field through active participation in many organizations. She serves many national organizations and boards.

Her expertise extends to managing multi-agency collaborations, advising legislators on fire-related policies, and representing Oregon in regional and national initiatives. Mariana's leadership is informed by a robust education that includes the Oregon Executive Leadership Academy, the National Fire Academy's Fire Service Interpersonal Dynamics program, and advanced training in hazardous materials and incident command systems.

Committed to excellence and public service, Mariana continues to drive progressive, outcome-focused initiatives to enhance public safety, support the fire service, and address emerging challenges in fire and emergency response.



Doug Grafe | Oregon Wildfire Programs Director, Office of Governor Tina Kotek

Doug's position was created in the 2021 legislative session, which established a comprehensive Wildfire Programs grounded in the recommendations developed by the 2019 Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. Doug serves as the principal advisor to the Governor on wildfire prevention, mitigation, and response, overseeing implementation of the Wildfire Programs that span eleven state agencies. Doug previously spent 17 years at the Oregon Department of Forestry in a variety of positions including stewardship forester, Toledo unit forest manager, fire operations manager, deputy chief of fire protection, and chief of fire protection – a position he held for 5 years.

Prior to his work for ODF, he held positions as the city forester for the City of Albany; consulting utility forester for PG&E in California; harvest inspector for the U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit; and assistant forester for Georgia Pacific Corporation in Florida. He has been a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1994 and previously served on the boards of the Oregon Heritage Tree Committee and the Toledo Rural Fire Protection District. He holds a bachelor's degree in forest resources and conservation from the University of Florida and has completed coursework in public management at Willamette University's Atkinson Graduate School of Management.

Event Information



Mathew Conte | Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Management, Jasper Fire Department

Mathew Conte is the Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management for the Municipality of Jasper, bringing over 25 years of progressive leadership experience in fire services and emergency management. He began his fire service career at age 16 with the Lumby Fire Department. He joined the Coalhurst Fire Department in 1999, advancing from firefighter to Training Officer before being appointed Fire Chief in 2005. In 2012, he assumed the role of Director of Emergency Management. Since 2021, Mathew has led fire and emergency management operations in Jasper, supporting preparedness and response in a complex, high-risk mountain environment.

Mathew holds a Bachelor of Applied Business degree in Emergency Services from Lakeland College. A certified Incident Commander and Operations Section Chief, he serves on Alberta's Northwest Zone All Hazards Incident Management Team and has been involved in responses to major incidents, including the Kenow, Chetamon, Yellowhead County, and Jasper Wildfires.



Don Iveson | Executive Advisor, Resilience Acceleration Lab, Co-operators

After 14 years of elected public service at Edmonton City Hall, including five years as Chair of Canada's Big City Mayors, Don founded Civic Good in 2021, providing advice on climate, housing, civic innovation and complex governance issues. He is primarily engaged with Co-operators as Executive Advisor at the Resilience Acceleration Lab, developing and investing in climate adaptation projects in communities across Canada. He remains based in Edmonton but works with governments, startups and not-for-profits across Canada in areas ranging from cleantech to modular housing. Don also serves as Co-Chair of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, and Chair of the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) – the nation's sixth largest financial institution.

Event Information



Big Daddy Tazz | Mental Health Advocate, Blue Bike Group

For over three decades, Big Daddy Tazz has inspired and entertained audiences across North America with a powerful blend of humour, honesty, and hope. Known as The Bi-Polar Buddha, Tazz combines world-class stand-up with a meaningful message about mental health, resilience, and workplace well-being. A veteran performer featured on Just For Laughs, CBC's The Debaters, and the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, Tazz uses laughter as a bridge to address real issues such as stress, burnout, and stigma—helping teams connect, recharge, and help each other. After years of navigating bipolar disorder, ADHD, anxiety, and dyslexia, Tazz transformed his challenges into strengths. For more than 30 years, he has sparked honest conversations about mental health by sharing his story openly and honestly. In 2023, he received the John Candy Award for his contributions to comedy and mental health advocacy.



Neal McLoughlin | Superintendent, Predictive Services, BC Wildfire Service

Neal McLoughlin is the Superintendent of Predictive Services for the BC Wildfire Service and is grateful to work with a top-notch team who delivers wildfire predictions, scientific analyses, software systems, and expertise to enhance operational decision making. Throughout his career Neal has also coordinated regional planning, co-authored scientific papers, instructed national and international fire courses, and led the development of software used for fire behaviour prediction across Canada and abroad.



Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit 2026

Victoria Conference Centre | Victoria, BC

Conference Program

Tuesday, April 7		
Time	Session	Room
1500-1700	Early Registration	Pre-Function 1

Wednesday, April 8		
Time	Session	Room
0630-1700	Registration	Pre-Function 1
0700-0800	Breakfast	Pre-Function 2
0800-0830	Welcome and Opening Remarks Cliff Chapman , Director of Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service Hon. Ravi Parmar , Minister of Forests and Deputy Government House Leader	Carson Hall
0830-0900	Panel 1 – Leadership in Resilience <u>Moderator:</u> Norah White , Deputy Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests <u>Panelists:</u> Christine Nadon , Director of Protective and Legislative Services, Municipality of Jasper Rachael Pollard , Assistant Deputy Minister, Response Division, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Willow Bloomquist , Prevention and Training Officer/FireSmart Coordinator, Dashwood Fire Department Strong, unified leadership in wildfire resiliency empowers communities and reduces barriers. Learn from operational, policy and organizational leaders as they discuss the importance of strong working relationships, knowing where their respective leadership makes the biggest impact and what the reality of whole-of-society leadership can be in today’s emergency management.	Carson Hall

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Wednesday, April 8		
0900-0945	<p>Keynote 1 – The Race to Keep Pace - A State’s Perspective: Oregon’s Wildfire Evolution and the Race to Keep Social, Policy and Legislative Pace with the Conditions on the Ground</p> <p>Mariana Ruiz-Temple, State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal Doug Grafe, Oregon Wildfire Programs Director, Office of Governor Tina Kotek</p> <p>Oregon’s 2020 and 2024 wildfires reshaped communities and landscapes, exposing political and social divides over land management, climate risks, funding, and preparedness. Rural, low-income, and tribal communities faced the harshest impacts, deepening mistrust and prompting a broader reckoning with resilience, responsibility, and living with wildfire in Oregon.</p>	Carson Hall
0945-1015	Morning Break	
1015-1100	Concurrent Breakout Sessions 1	Room
	<p>Breakout 1.a – Beyond the Border</p> <p>California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)</p> <p>Join us for an engaging and informal conversation with CAL FIRE executives and senior staff as they share insights drawn from their frontline experience managing California’s increasingly complex wildfire environment. This interactive session offers participants a unique opportunity to explore emerging trends, operational challenges, and innovative strategies shaping wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response, while having space to ask questions and exchange ideas in a relaxed, discussion-focused setting.</p>	Carson Hall
	<p>Breakout 1.b – Secondary Effects of Wildfire: Community Response and Land-Based Recovery</p> <p>Sean Flickinger, Emergency Program Coordinator, Huu-ay-aht First Nation Sarah Gourlay, Ecological Wildfire Coordinator, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>The 2025 Mt. Underwood fire was one of the largest wildfires on Vancouver Island in a century. This presentation highlights how the nearby Huu-ay-aht community responded to secondary effects such as power outages and road access challenges, and how BCWS tested a new approach to assessing land-based impacts during the active wildfire.</p>	Saanich
	<p>Breakout 1.c – Building Enclosure Design for Wildfire Resilience</p> <p>Graham Finch, Principal, Senior Building Science Specialist, RDH Building Science Inc.</p> <p>This session explores how wildfires interact with building enclosures using a performance-based lens informed by material resistance, post-fire investigations, and physical testing. Attendees gain insight into ignition and failure mechanisms and learn practical strategies for material selection, detailing, and assembly design that improve building enclosure resilience and resist wildfire exposure.</p>	Oak Bay

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Wednesday, April 8		
1015-1100	<p>Breakout 1.d – Braiding Academia and Practice: How Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Is Strengthening Wildfire Resilience</p> <p>Quentin Nelson, Associate Director, TRU Wildfire (Training), Thompson River University</p> <p>This session explores the professionalization of wildfire as an academic discipline through Thompson Rivers University (TRU Wildfire), braiding use-inspired research, education, and training. TRU’s dual-sector model, PLAR, and targeted programs are positioned to connect frontline experience with academic pathways, aligning research and practice to support workforce capacity and community wildfire resilience.</p>	Lecture Theatre
1100-1115	Transition	
1115-1200	Concurrent Breakout Sessions 2	Room
	<p>Breakout 2.a – Protecting Linear Infrastructure from Wildfires: Building Partnerships for Resilience</p> <p>Ben Peco, Director, Security and Emergency Management, BC Hydro</p> <p>We will explore how BC Hydro safeguards linear infrastructure through collaboration. Key themes include integrated planning that leverages fire-resistant materials and vegetation management, the importance of cross-sector partnerships, the use of technology and systems to monitor, anticipate, and mitigate wildfire impacts and the role of policy and funding mechanisms in aligning regulatory frameworks with investment strategies.</p>	Lecture Theatre
	<p>Breakout 2.b – Beyond Boundaries: Advancing Wildfire Resilience Through Partnerships</p> <p>Kathleen Cahoon, FireSmart Liaison and Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, City of Kamloops</p> <p>Effective wildfire resilience requires moving beyond jurisdictional lines and organizational silos. This presentation highlights how meaningful collaboration between First Nations, provincial agencies, academic institutions, regional districts, and municipal teams strengthens community preparedness. Learn how trust, collaboration, and shared learning enhance coordinated action and long-term community safety.</p>	Oak Bay
	<p>Breakout 2.c – How to Engage, Empower, and Equip Your Community to be Effective Partners in Wildfire Resiliency</p> <p>Paul Collens, Ruxton Island Fire Committee Coordinator and Local FireSmart Representative, Ruxton Island Property Owners Association</p> <p>A step-by-step approach to engage, empower, and equip your community, to take ownership of community residents’ unique role in Wildfire Resiliency in partnership with BC FireSmart, BC Wildfire Service, and the Province of British Columbia.</p>	Saanich

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Wednesday, April 8		
1115-1200	<p>Breakout 2.d – Managing Landscapes; Connecting Potential Operational Delineations and Forest Landscape Plans in the Bulkley Morice</p> <p>Kevin Kriese, Policy Lead, Bulkley Morice Wildfire Resilience Project</p> <p>The presentation will describe the experience in the Bulkley Morice Wildfire Resilience Project in developing knowledge and tools for landscape-scale management. This includes developing a pilot project for Potential Operational Delineations, a planning tool that connects wildfire suppression and land management.</p>	Carson Hall
1200-1300	Lunch	Pre-Function 2
1300-1400	<p>Panel 2 – Local Government Bylaw Development: Making the Difference</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p>Danyta Welch, Manager, Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <p>Claire Dewar, Director of Planning and Development Services, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District</p> <p>Graham Finch, Principal, Senior Building Science Specialist, RDH Building Science Inc.</p> <p>Mathew Conte, Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Management, Jasper Fire Department</p> <p>Jennifer Letz, Mayor, Sisters, Oregon</p> <p>Empowering communities to take action in the Legislation and Planning Discipline, join local government officials and building science experts to learn about the importance of using proven FireSmart practices for planning and building legislation that make communities more resilient.</p>	Carson Hall
1400-1415	Transition	
1415-1500	<p>Concurrent Breakout Sessions 3</p> <p>Breakout 3.a – Rekindling Fire Stewardship: Pathways to Cultural Fire</p> <p>Attila Nelson, Cultural and Prescribed Fire Supervisor, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p>This presentation shares Indigenous led approaches to rekindling fire stewardship through cultural burning. It explores the pathways between Western forestry and indigenous ways of knowing. It offers guidance for planning, documenting, and monitoring good fire as part of climate adaptation and wildfire risk reduction through an indigenous perspective.</p>	<p>Room</p> <p>Carson Hall</p>

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Wednesday, April 8		
1415-1500	<p>Breakout 3.b – Stronger Together: Advancing Wildfire Resilience Through Regional Collaboration and Indigenous Partnership</p> <p>Dean Seal, Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator, K’omoks First Nation</p> <p>Teresa Jaskiewicz, Emergency Management Technician, Comox Valley Emergency Management</p> <p>Wildfire risk does not respect jurisdictional boundaries, and neither should the solutions. The Comox Valley FireSmart Collaboration, in partnership with K’omoks First Nations, and our municipal partners, presents a regional approach to wildfire risk reduction that prioritizes collaboration, reconciliation, and long-term resilience. This session explores how indigenous and local governments are working together to move beyond siloed FireSmart efforts toward a coordinated regional model.</p>	Saanich
	<p>Breakout 3.c – Strengthening Wildfire Prevention through Bylaws: Tools for Regulating Open Fire and Industrial Activities</p> <p>Adele Lay, Senior Policy Analyst, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Mica Jorgenson, Policy Analyst, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Join staff from the BC Wildfire Service for a session focused on how local bylaws and provincial legislation work together to prevent human-caused wildfires. Explore current approaches used in BC to protect public safety through regulating open burning and industrial activities. Engage in forward-looking collaborative discussions about future policy direction. This session is designed to strengthen intergovernmental relationships and support the development of practical, locally informed bylaws for wildfire prevention.</p>	Oak Bay
	<p>Breakout 3.d – Care Democracy Amidst Climate Crises: Identifying Strategies to Connect Lived-Experiences to Policy Through Intersectional Perspectives</p> <p>Dr. Sarah Wiebe, Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor, School of Public Administration, University of Victoria</p> <p>To improve avenues for collaboration during times of crisis, this session will address the following: Who is responsible for climate disaster response, preparedness and planning in British Columbia? How can policy actors listen to and learn from the lived-experience of those most affected by extreme weather events?</p>	Lecture Theatre
1500-1530	Afternoon Break	
1530-1615	<p>Keynote 2 – Prepared, Tested, Improved: Jasper’s Wildfire Preparedness, Effectiveness, and What Changed After the Fire</p> <p>Mathew Conte, Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Management, Jasper Fire Department</p> <p>This session provides a technical review of Jasper’s wildfire preparedness, including pre-incident planning and mitigation measures. It evaluates their operational effectiveness during the wildfire and outlines evidence-based lessons learned. Attendees will gain insight into post-incident changes implemented to strengthen mitigation strategies, preparedness frameworks, and wildfire risk management.</p>	Carson Hall

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Wednesday, April 8		
1615-1645	<p>Lynn Orstad Awards</p> <p>In memory of Lynn Orstad, a female trailblazer in wildfire risk mitigation, FireSmart BC, FireSmart Alberta, and Co-operators are recognizing women in British Columbia or Alberta who have contributed to furthering wildfire resiliency in their community, agency or province. The Lynn Orstad Award - Women in Wildfire Resiliency is an annual award honouring women who have made significant contributions in wildfire resilience and advocacy efforts. Winners will be announced during this presentation.</p> <p>Brought to you by the Co-operators and Firesmart BC, in partnership with FireSmart Alberta and First Nations Emergency Services Society.</p>	Carson Hall
1645-1700	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Amanda Reynolds, Indigenous Community Resiliency Coordinator, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre</p>	Carson Hall
1830-2200	<p>Summit Social Event</p> <p>Join us for a fun evening of socializing, music, delicious food and local libations. This is an event you are not going to want to miss!</p>	Royal BC Museum (675 Belleville St.)

Thursday, April 9		
Time	Session	Room
0630-1700	Registration	Pre-Function 1
0700-0800	Breakfast	Pre-Function 2
0800-0815	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Rachel Woodhurst, FireSmart Program Lead, BC FireSmart Committee Chair, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Carson Hall
0815-0900	ləkʷəŋən Traditional Dancers	Carson Hall
0900-0945	<p>Keynote 3 - Collaborating to Redefine What's Possible in Wildfire Risk Reduction</p> <p>Don Iveson, Executive Advisor, Resilience Acceleration Lab, Co-operators</p> <p>This session's focus will be on moving beyond business-as-usual, challenging the status quo, and showcasing the power of multi-partner leadership to raise our collective ambition for wildfire risk reduction at a scale and pace equal to this pressing challenge.</p> <p>We will share how a purpose led financial services company can play an impactful role in helping to protect communities and how unique, collaborative approaches can break through conventional boundaries to deliver innovative wildfire risk reduction strategies and build a model that can be scaled to benefit more communities.</p>	Carson Hall
0945-1000	Transition	

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Thursday, April 9		
1000-1200	Concurrent Workshops 1 and Breakouts 4	Room
	<p>Workshop 1.a – FireSmart BC Program, Courses, and Strategic Plan</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p>Rachel Woodhurst, FireSmart Program Lead, BC FireSmart Committee Chair, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p><u>FireSmart BC Facilitators:</u></p> <p>Diana Grabavac, FireSmart Education Officer, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Amy Norgaard, Mitigation and Preparedness Specialist, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food</p> <p>Karla Hoffman, FireSmart Landscaping Expert, FireSmart BC</p> <p>Micah Roberts, Prevention Coordinator, FireSmart BC</p> <p>Alyssa Christianson, FireSmart Project Manager, FireSmart BC</p> <p>Lucy Grainger, FireSmart Education Officer, FireSmart BC/BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Dan Stevens, FireSmart Advisor, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p>Joel Hamilton, Wildfire Mitigation Program Lead/Wildfire Interface Specialist, FireSmart BC/Fire Chiefs Association of BC</p> <p>Ryan Moreside, Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator, FireSmart BC</p> <p>Open to all participants, this station-style workshop is designed to facilitate discussion about new program additions and courses offered through FireSmart BC in alignment with the Strategic Plan. Participants can move freely between tables based on their interests. FireSmart BC staff will be available to answer questions, discuss new courses, and support conversations on how these programs can be brought into communities to strengthen practical wildfire resiliency.</p>	Carson Hall
	<p>Workshop 1.b – One Incident. Multiple Authorities. One Command.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p>Mark Healey, Provincial Operations Response Officer, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p><u>Facilitators:</u></p> <p>Hugh Murdoch, Kamloops Fire Zone Wildfire Officer, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Darren Van Horn, Wildfire Officer, Dawson Creek Fire Zone, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>This workshop examines Incident Command structures for multi jurisdictional incidents in British Columbia. You will apply BCWS guidelines to real scenarios involving local governments, First Nations, federal, interprovincial, and international partners. Led by Type 1 Incident Commanders Mark Healey, Hugh Murdoch, and Darren Van Horn.</p>	Lecture Theatre

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Thursday, April 9			
	1000-1045	<p>Breakout 4.a – Using Tools and Trainings to Engage Land Use Planning and Development Professionals in Wildfire Resiliency</p> <p>Kelly Johnston, Operations Director, Community Wildfire Planning Center Molly Mowery, Executive Director, Community Wildfire Planning Center</p> <p>Community land use planning is a critical component of increasing wildfire resiliency. Learn how to successfully engage planners and other development professionals and which existing tools and resources can be effectively used for wildfire risk reduction in the WUI.</p>	Saanich
		<p>Breakout 4.b – Bringing FireSmart to First Nations Communities</p> <p>Danika Snook, FireSmart Advisor, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society Salina Derish, FireSmart Coordinator, S.A.Y. Lands Office</p> <p>This presentation shares insights from collaborative work with First Nations communities on FireSmart and emergency readiness, delivered by two non-Indigenous women with experience supporting the development of FireSmart and emergency management programs. The session explores relationship-building, navigating ongoing capacity challenges, and practicing meaningful, respectful engagement as non-Indigenous allies.</p>	Oak Bay
	1045-1115	Morning Break	
	1115-1200	<p>Breakout 4.c – Rekindling Our Relationship with Fire Through Cultural and Prescribed Burning</p> <p>Fons Raedschelders, Superintendent, Cultural and Prescribed Fire, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>This session seeks to educate communities, practitioners and Land managers on the processes, regulations, training, and funding to support prescribed fire projects and programs. Development of a modern day culturally informed prescribed fire program in BC needs a collective strategy to increase capacity, social licence and skills required for planning, coordination, implementation, and monitoring rooted in collaboration and cross training that supports Fire Response And Forest management across BC.</p>	Oak Bay
		<p>Breakout 4.d – Insights from Behavioural Science on Canadians’ Risk Perceptions and the Challenge of Household Level Wildfire Risk Reduction</p> <p>Keldi Forbes, Sr. Wildland Fire Research Economist, Canadian Forest Service Lili Sun, Research Scientist, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada/Government of Canada</p> <p>This presentation shares results from a survey of 3231 Canadians as part of an ongoing behavioural science research seeking to better understand Canadians’ awareness and adoption of measures to reduce the risk of wildland fire to their health, homes, and communities, their wildfire risk perceptions, and barriers and opportunities identified.</p>	Saanich

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Thursday, April 9		
1200-1300	Lunch	Pre-Function 2
1300-1445	Concurrent Workshops 2 and Breakouts 5	Room
	<p>Workshop 2.a – Local FireSmart Programs: Community Action as Evidence</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Rachel Woodhurst, FireSmart Program Lead, BC FireSmart Committee Chair, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p><u>Facilitator:</u> Shelagh Pyper, Director of Knowledge Exchange Partnerships, Fuse Consulting Ltd.</p> <p>Discuss and share your experiences of the evidence that FireSmart reduces losses and is an indispensable program. Tell us how, where and for who your FireSmart success stories are having a measurable impact so we can create a business case for longer term funding and support.</p>	Carson Hall
	<p>Workshop 2.b – Insurance and Wildfire - Exploring Opportunities and Challenges in an Increasingly Wildfire Prone Future</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Joel Hamilton, Wildfire Mitigation Program Lead/Wildfire Interface Specialist, FireSmart BC/Fire Chiefs Association of BC</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u> David Tupper, Claims and Risk Analyst, Municipal Insurance Association of BC Michelle Laidlaw, Assistant Vice President, National Product Portfolio (Home), P&C Solutions, Co-operators Nathan LaFayette, Senior Vice President and Chief Insurance Officer, BCAA Michael Currie, Vice President, Verisk Fire Underwriters Survey</p> <p>Wildfire risk is reshaping the home insurance landscape in British Columbia. This session explores how insurers assess wildfire risk, how premiums and underwriting are evolving in fire-prone areas, and the role mitigation and partnerships play in community resilience. Panelists will also discuss industry support for communities before and after disasters, followed by audience Q&A.</p>	Lecture Theatre
1300-1345	<p>Breakout 5.a – The Flat Fire: What Went Right</p> <p>Jennifer Letz, Mayor, City of Sisters, Oregon Kellen Klein, Executive Director, Citizens4Community</p> <p>Last August, the Flat Fire burned 9,300 hectares and threatened Sisters, Oregon. Despite more than 820 homes within the fire perimeter, just five were lost. In this session, Sisters’ mayor and a local nonprofit director explore the policies, planning, and partnerships that helped save their town and how those lessons are now shaping bold, collaborative approaches to community resilience.</p>	Saanich

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Thursday, April 9		
1300-1345	<p>Breakout 5.b – Compassionate Crisis Leadership: Rapid Relationship-Building in Response</p> <p>Kayla Pepper, Principal/Founder, Ember Leaf Consulting</p> <p>Leadership is defined not just by what you do, but how you do it. This session introduces the Cultivating Safe Spaces framework to equip crisis leaders to manage conflict, rapidly build trust, and address trauma in high-stakes environments while leading themselves, teams, and communities with clarity, compassion, and resilience under sustained pressure.</p>	Oak Bay
1345-1400	Transition	
1400-1445	<p>Breakout 5.c – Under Fire and Underfoot: Tactical Operations Around Pipeline Rights-of-Way</p> <p>John Nicoletti, Emergency Management Specialist, TC Energy, Northern BC</p> <p>Steve Otway, Enbridge, Wildfire Specialist, Enbridge Pipelines (Athabasca) Inc.</p> <p>This session provides tactical, boots-on-the-ground guidance for wildfire crews operating near pipeline rights-of-way. Presented by TC Energy and Enbridge, it covers right-of-way awareness, safe crossing techniques, infrastructure hazards, and operational dos and don'ts, while reinforcing real-time coordination and communication between fire resources and pipeline operators.</p>	Saanich
	<p>Breakout 5.d – The Strain of Repeated Disasters: Explaining the Impacts of Wildfires on Rural Community Members in British Columbia</p> <p>Ashley Berard, PhD Candidate, Sessional Instructor, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria</p> <p>This presentation will share findings from a sociological study done on the impacts of repeated wildfire experiences. Drawing on data from interviews with over 30 rural community members in the Interior of British Columbia, the presentation will highlight key challenges including mental health strain, community disruption, and trust/distrust in resources.</p>	Oak Bay
1445-1515	Afternoon Break	
1515-1615	<p>Panel 3 – The Next Operational Capability: Psychological Health in Wildfire Preparedness and Response</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p>Erik Hanson, Critical Incident Stress Management Program Manager, Associate Deputy Ministers Officer, Ministry of Forests</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <p>Steve Farina, Mental Health Advocate and Retired Firefighter</p> <p>John Hill, Mental Health Specialist, Canadian Trauma Services</p> <p>Dr. Laurie Pearce, Associate Faculty, Royal Roads University</p> <p>Practical takeaways to support responders and communities before, during, and after wildfire operations.</p>	Carson Hall

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Thursday, April 9		
1615-1715	<p>Keynote 4 – Out of My Mind</p> <p>Big Daddy Tazz, Mental Health Advocate, Blue Bike Group</p> <p>Big Daddy Tazz’ storytelling breaks down mental health stigma and fosters empathy. Blending laughter with lived experience, he empowers those struggling with their own mental health or that of another, equipping colleagues to lend support, and leaving audiences with a better understanding of mental health challenges, compassion, and renewed connection.</p>	Carson Hall
1715-1730	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Rachel Woodhurst, FireSmart Program Lead, BC FireSmart Committee Chair, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Carson Hall

Friday, April 10		
Time	Session	Room
0630-1200	Registration	Pre-Function 1
0700-0800	Breakfast	Pre-Function 2
0800-0815	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Phil Lemire, Executive Officer, Fire Chiefs Association of BC</p>	Carson Hall
0815-0915	<p>Panel 4 – Passing the Torch: Youth Involvement as the Future of FireSmart</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p>Malina Garner, FireSmart Division Supervisor, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <p>Michael Marchment, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, Pemberton Fire Rescue</p> <p>Darryl Adrian, Emergency Management Coordinator, Lillooet Tribal Council</p> <p>Brennan Balkovec, FireSmart BC Co-op Student, FireSmart BC</p> <p>Morgan Bukowski, FireSmart Coordinator, Village of Kaslo</p> <p>Youth engagement and interest is a deciding factor in which programs of today remain the programs of tomorrow. This panel will share success stories and lessons learned around engaging youth in the FireSmart program, and what opportunities are available. Based on the life experiences of those trying to pass the torch, and those accepting it, this panel will offer ideas, tools, and practical insights into how we can affect the future of FireSmart.</p>	Carson Hall
0915-1000	<p>BC Wildland Firefighter Awards</p> <p>In recognition of the critical role wildland firefighters play in keeping the province safe, FireSmart BC, the First Nations’ Emergency Services Society, and BC Wildfire Service have partnered to create the new BC Wildland Firefighter Awards. Individuals in wildfire response will be recognized during a special ceremony. Each recipient will receive a personalized award plus a \$1000 grant towards furthering wildfire resiliency efforts.</p>	Carson Hall

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Friday, April 10		
1000-1030	Morning Break	
1030-1130	<p>Panel 5 – Pacific West Coast Leaders in Wildfire Resilience</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Nick Schuler, Deputy Director, CAL FIRE</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u> Ian Meier, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests Daniel Berlant, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE Mariana Ruiz-Temple, State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal George Geissler, State Forester - Deputy, Forest Resilience and Wildland Fire Management, Washington State Department of Natural Resources</p> <p>This forward-looking session brings together wildfire leaders from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California to explore the future of wildfire across the Pacific Coast of North America. Panelists will comment on the rapidly evolving landscape of fire behaviour, climate impacts, and community vulnerability while highlighting the innovations and collaborative strategies needed to meet emerging challenges. This session invites participants to look beyond current paradigms and consider what a unified, adaptive, and future ready wildfire management system could look like across the West Coast.</p>	Carson Hall
1130-1145	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Tony Pesklevits, Manager of Wildfire Prevention and Cultural and Prescribed Fire, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Carson Hall
1145-1300	Lunch	Pre-Function 2
1300-1500	<p>FCABC FireSmart Zone Meetings*</p> <p><i>*Please see Zone Map on page 34</i></p> <p>Hosted by members of the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC, join like-minded individuals to discuss FireSmart programs within designated areas across BC (Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Central Interior, Kootenays, and North).</p> <p>Topics include FireSmart best practices, successes, lessons learned, and how to build community resilience by strengthening relations with local First Nations, government, and neighbouring fire services.</p> <p>These meetings are for all participants to share feedback on FireSmart and CRI programs. They offer an opportunity to meet other FireSmart practitioners, hear about what works, new information, program changes, and have questions answered that relate to your community. Most importantly, these meetings help build your FireSmart network and meet those who work alongside you in the growing practice of FireSmart.</p>	

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Friday, April 10		
1300-1500	Zone 1: Vancouver Island Host: Bruce Green , Fire Chief, Oyster River Fire Department	Carson Hall
	Zone 2: Lower Mainland Host: Jeremy Calder , Assistant Chief, Fire Prevention, FireSmart Coordinator, West Vancouver Fire Rescue	Lecture Theatre
	Zone 3: Central Interior Host: Dennis Craig , Assistant Fire Chief of Mitigation and Prevention, City of Kelowna	Saanich
	Zone 4: Kootenays Host: Scott Driver , Fire Chief, City of Cranbrook	Oak Bay
	Zone 5: North Host: Dave Stringfellow , Fire Chief, Erris Fire Department	Esquimalt
1500	End of Conference Program	
1500-1700	Early Registration for Training Participants	Pre-Function 1

Victoria Conference Centre & Fairmont Empress | Victoria, BC

Training Program

Saturday, April 11		
Time	Session	Room
0630-1700	Registration	Pre-Function 1
0700-0800	Breakfast	Palm Court
0800-0815	Opening Remarks Daniel Atkinson , Fire Chief, Victoria Fire Department	Lecture Theatre

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Saturday, April 11		
0815-0915	<p>Panel 6 – Shared Ground: Wildfire Operations in Rural and First Nations Communities</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mattias Ballantyne, Fire Services Officer, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u> Judi Thomas, Chief Councillor, Ditidaht First Nation Nick Acciavatti, Fire Chief, Dashwood Fire Department Brandi Burns, Wildfire Officer, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>This panel will explore the operational realities of wildfire response in rural and First Nations communities, where geography, infrastructure, governance, and community context intersect. Anchored in lessons from the 2025 wildfire season on Vancouver Island, including the Wesley Ridge Fire, the discussion will highlight both the challenges and opportunities that emerge when agencies operate on shared ground, emphasizing coordination, trust, and adaptive decision-making in complex environments.</p>	Lecture Theatre
0915-0930	Transition	
0930-1230	WUI Training Courses (Day 1 of 2)	Room
	<p>Command and Control of Wildland Urban Interface Fire Operations</p> <p><u>Instructors:</u> Joss Advocaat, Fire Services Officer, BC Wildfire Service Brian Hutchinson, Superintendent – Fire Services, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Saanich 1
	<p>SPP-S330 – Task Force/Strike Team Leader (Class #1)</p> <p><u>Instructors:</u> Jeff Gill, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Lou Wilde, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Mitch Melanson, Wildfire Technician, BC Wildfire Service Brandi Burns, Wildfire Officer, Mid Island Fire Zone, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Rattenbury B
	<p>SPP-S330 – Task Force/Strike Team Leader (Class #2)</p> <p><u>Instructors:</u> Kelly Johnston, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Brittany Seibert, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Allan Gossen, Safety and Staff Development Coordinator, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Saanich 2
	<p>SPP-S339 – Division/Group Supervisor</p> <p><u>Instructors:</u> Scott Cronquist, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Dwight Seymour, Fire Chief, Kelowna Fire Department Larry Watkinson, Deputy Chief, Kelowna Fire Department Alan Berry, Senior Wildfire Officer Prevention, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Rattenbury A

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Saturday, April 11		
0930-1230	SPP-SPS – Structure Protection Specialist <u>Instructors:</u> Brad Burnett , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Patrick McConnell , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Steve Link , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Mike Brew , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Esquimalt
	SPP-STAM – Staging Area Manager <u>Instructors:</u> Talia Bennett , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Stephanie Dunlop , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Brian Helm , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Shaughnessy
	SPP-S280 – Structure Protection Crew Leader (Class #1A) <u>Instructors:</u> Tyler Hilland , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service John McDonald , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Oak Bay 1
	SPP-S280 – Structure Protection Crew Leader (Class #2A) <u>Instructors:</u> Rob Brown , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Kevin Woronchak , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Gord Parker , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Oak Bay 2
0930-1230	FireSmart Training Course (Day 1 of 2)	Room
	Wildfire Mitigation Specialist “Train the Trainer” <u>Instructors:</u> Joel Hamilton , Wildfire Mitigation Program Lead/Wildfire Interface Specialist, FireSmart BC/Fire Chiefs Association of BC Ryan Moreside , Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator, FireSmart BC	West Coast

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Saturday, April 11		
0930-1230	Summit Labs: WUI Leadership and Operational Excellence	Room
	<p>Summit Lab 1A – Integrating Cultural and Prescribed Fire: Training for Today’s Fire Departments</p> <p>Fons Raedschelders, Superintendent, Cultural and Prescribed Fire, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>This half-day Summit Lab examines the role of prescribed fire and cultural fire practices in today’s landscape and how these approaches can inform training, planning, and operational readiness within the fire service.</p> <p>Drawing from BCWS field experience, the session explores how planned fire – when applied safely and strategically – supports ecosystem health, community protection, and wildfire resilience. While not presented from an Indigenous lens, the session acknowledges and supports the foundational role of Indigenous fire stewardship, and the lessons discussed are broadly applicable across all fire management contexts.</p>	Lecture Hall
1230-1330	Lunch	Palm Court
1330-1630	WUI Training Courses (Day 1 of 2)	Room
	<p>Command and Control of Wildland Urban Interface Fire Operations</p> <p><u>Instructors:</u></p> <p>Joss Advocaat, Fire Services Officer, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Brian Hutchinson, Superintendent – Fire Services, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Saanich 1
	<p>SPP-S330 – Task Force/Strike Team Leader (Class #1)</p> <p><u>Instructors:</u></p> <p>Jeff Gill, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Lou Wilde, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Mitch Melanson, Wildfire Technician, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Brandi Burns, Wildfire Officer, Mid Island Fire Zone, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Rattenbury B
	<p>SPP-S330 – Task Force/Strike Team Leader (Class #2)</p> <p><u>Instructors:</u></p> <p>Kelly Johnston, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Brittany Seibert, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Allan Gossen, Safety and Staff Development Coordinator, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Saanich 2
	<p>SPP-S339 – Division/Group Supervisor</p> <p><u>Instructors:</u></p> <p>Scott Cronquist, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Dwight Seymour, Fire Chief, Kelowna Fire Department</p> <p>Larry Watkinson, Deputy Chief, Kelowna Fire Department</p> <p>Alan Berry, Senior Wildfire Officer Prevention, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Rattenbury A

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Saturday, April 11		
1330-1630	SPP-SPS – Structure Protection Specialist <u>Instructors:</u> Brad Burnett , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Patrick McConnell , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Steve Link , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Mike Brew , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Esquimalt
	SPP-STAM – Staging Area Manager <u>Instructors:</u> Talia Bennett , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Stephanie Dunlop , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Brian Helm , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Shaughnessy
	SPP-S280 – Structure Protection Crew Leader (Class #1A) <u>Instructors:</u> Tyler Hilland , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service John McDonald , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Oak Bay 1
	SPP-S280 – Structure Protection Crew Leader (Class #2A) <u>Instructors:</u> Rob Brown , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Kevin Woronchak , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Gord Parker , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Oak Bay 2
1330-1630	FireSmart Training Course (Day 1 of 2)	Room
	Wildfire Mitigation Specialist “Train the Trainer” <u>Instructors:</u> Joel Hamilton , Wildfire Mitigation Program Lead/Wildfire Interface Specialist, FireSmart BC/Fire Chiefs Association of BC Ryan Moreside , Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator, FireSmart BC	West Coast

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Saturday, April 11		
Time	Session	Room
1330-1630	Summit Labs: WUI Leadership and Operational Excellence	
	Summit Lab 1B – Airtanker Operations for Fireline Leaders Ryan Gow , Air Attack Officer, BC Wildfire Service Robyn Canty , Air Attack Officer, BC Wildfire Service This half-day Summit Lab provides a clear, operational look at how airtankers can be used to greatest effect in Wildland Urban Interface incidents. The session explores how fixed-wing resources support ground strategies, enhance firefighter safety, and contribute to coordinated suppression and structure defense efforts. Participants will examine how airtankers fit within overall tactical planning, communication flow, and resource management, and how understanding their capabilities helps optimize operational outcomes in rapidly changing conditions.	Lecture Hall
1700-2030	Training Social Event All training participants and instructors are invited to join this annual tradition. This is an opportunity for you to relax and socialize with your fellow training participants while enjoying cold drinks and some great food.	Victoria Conference Centre Upper Pavilion and Courtyard
Sunday, April 12		
Time	Session	Room
0630-1200	Registration	Pre-Function 1
0700-0800	Breakfast	Palm Court
0800-0815	Opening Remarks Brian Hutchinson , Superintendent, Fire Services, BC Wildfire Service	Lecture Theatre
0815-0900	Keynote 5 – What Should I Pay Attention to Today? Neal McLoughlin , Superintendent, Predictive Services, BC Wildfire Service Predictive Services are intended to provide valuable insights and advance wildfire intelligence and decision making for wildfire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities. It is also possible that the complex systems and data involved in this discipline can overwhelm decision makers and get in the way of expert intuition. This presentation will explore key learnings from recent and record setting fire seasons and share innovative products and services the PSU is making available for the 2026 fire season.	Lecture Theatre
0900-0930	Group Photo and Transition	

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Sunday, April 12		
0930-1230	WUI Training Courses (Day 2 of 2)	Room
	Command and Control of Wildland Urban Interface Fire Operations <u>Instructors:</u> Joss Advocaat , Fire Services Officer, BC Wildfire Service Brian Hutchinson , Superintendent – Fire Services, BC Wildfire Service	Saanich 1
	SPP-S330 – Task Force/Strike Team Leader (Class #1) <u>Instructors:</u> Jeff Gill , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Lou Wilde , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Mitch Melanson , Wildfire Technician, BC Wildfire Service Brandi Burns , Wildfire Officer, Mid Island Fire Zone, BC Wildfire Service	Rattenbury B
	SPP-S330 – Task Force/Strike Team Leader (Class #2) <u>Instructors:</u> Kelly Johnston , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Brittany Seibert , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Allan Gossen , Safety and Staff Development Coordinator, BC Wildfire Service	Saanich 2
	SPP-S339 – Division/Group Supervisor <u>Instructors:</u> Scott Cronquist , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Dwight Seymour , Fire Chief, Kelowna Fire Department Larry Watkinson , Deputy Chief, Kelowna Fire Department Alan Berry , Senior Wildfire Officer Prevention, BC Wildfire Service	Rattenbury A
	SPP-SPS – Structure Protection Specialist <u>Instructors:</u> Brad Burnett , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Patrick McConnell , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Steve Link , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Mike Brew , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Esquimalt
	SPP-STAM – Staging Area Manager <u>Instructors:</u> Talia Bennett , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Stephanie Dunlop , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Brian Helm , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Shaughnessy

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Sunday, April 12		
0930-1230	SPP-S280 – Structure Protection Crew Leader (Class #1B) <u>Instructors:</u> Tyler Hilland , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service John McDonald , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Oak Bay 1
	SPP-S280 – Structure Protection Crew Leader (Class #2B) <u>Instructors:</u> Rob Brown , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Kevin Woronchak , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Gord Parker , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Oak Bay 2
0930-1230	FireSmart Training Course (Day 2 of 2)	Room
	Wildfire Mitigation Specialist “Train the Trainer” <u>Instructors:</u> Joel Hamilton , Wildfire Mitigation Program Lead/Wildfire Interface Specialist, FireSmart BC/Fire Chiefs Association of BC Ryan Moreside , Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator, FireSmart BC	West Coast
0930-1230	Summit Labs: WUI Leadership and Operational Excellence	Room
	Summit Lab 2A – Engine-1 to the EOC: Using PPOST to Manage Escalating and Complex Incidents Mike Andrews , CEO, GetSet Solutions Ltd. This half-day Summit Lab explores how the PPOST framework – Priorities, Problems, Objectives, Strategies, and Tactics – can be applied to strengthen decision-making and coordination as incidents grow in scale and complexity. Participants will follow the evolution of a complex incident response from “Engine-1 on scene” to full EOC activation, learning how structured information flow, role clarity, and alignment of objectives improve outcomes across agencies and levels of command. Through discussion, scenario work, and applied examples, the session highlights how field leaders and EOC staff can work in sync to manage competing priorities, maintain situational awareness, and adapt effectively under pressure.	Lecture Hall
1230-1330	Lunch	Palm Court
1330-1630	WUI Training Courses (Day 2 of 2)	Room
	Command and Control of Wildland Urban Interface Fire Operations <u>Instructors:</u> Joss Advocaat , Fire Services Officer, BC Wildfire Service Brian Hutchinson , Superintendent – Fire Services, BC Wildfire Service	Saanich 1

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Sunday, April 12		
1330-1630	SPP-S330 – Task Force/Strike Team Leader (Class #1) <u>Instructors:</u> Jeff Gill , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Lou Wilde , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Mitch Melanson , Wildfire Technician, BC Wildfire Service Brandi Burns , Wildfire Officer, Mid Island Fire Zone, BC Wildfire Service	Rattenbury B
	SPP-S330 – Task Force/Strike Team Leader (Class #2) <u>Instructors:</u> Kelly Johnston , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Brittany Seibert , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Allan Gossen , Safety and Staff Development Coordinator, BC Wildfire Service	Saanich 2
	SPP-S339 – Division/Group Supervisor <u>Instructors:</u> Scott Cronquist , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Dwight Seymour , Fire Chief, Kelowna Fire Department Larry Watkinson , Deputy Chief, Kelowna Fire Department Alan Berry , Senior Wildfire Officer Prevention, BC Wildfire Service	Rattenbury A
	SPP-SPS – Structure Protection Specialist <u>Instructors:</u> Brad Burnett , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Patrick McConnell , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Steve Link , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Mike Brew , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Esquimalt
	SPP-STAM – Staging Area Manager <u>Instructors:</u> Talia Bennett , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Stephanie Dunlop , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Brian Helm , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Shaughnessy
	SPP-S280 – Structure Protection Crew Leader (Class #1B) <u>Instructors:</u> Tyler Hilland , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service John McDonald , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Oak Bay 1

Event Agenda | April 8 - 12



Sunday, April 12		
1330-1630	SPP-S280 – Structure Protection Crew Leader (Class #2B) <u>Instructors:</u> Rob Brown , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Kevin Woronchak , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service Gord Parker , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Oak Bay 2
1330-1630	FireSmart Training Course (Day 2 of 2) Wildfire Mitigation Specialist “Train the Trainer” <u>Instructors:</u> Joel Hamilton , Wildfire Mitigation Program Lead/Wildfire Interface Specialist, FireSmart BC/Fire Chiefs Association of BC Ryan Moreside , Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator, FireSmart BC	Room West Coast
1330-1630	Summit Labs: WUI Leadership and Operational Excellence Summit Lab 2B – From Forecast to Fireground: Applying Fire Weather Science to Operations Ben Boghean , Predictive Services Officer, BC Wildfire Service Jessica Hawksworth , Predictive Services Officer, BC Wildfire Service Eric Kopetski , Predictive Services Officer, BC Wildfire Service This half-day Summit Lab connects forecasting and fire behavior prediction directly to operational decision-making on the fireline and in planning roles. Participants will explore how the BCWS Predictive Services Unit develops and communicates forecasts, indices, and outlooks – and how those products can be used to anticipate risk, set objectives, and make proactive tactical choices before conditions deteriorate. Through a blend of science, operations, and case-based discussion, the session will show how integrating predictive services into daily planning cycles improves situational awareness, resource prioritization, and safety outcomes.	Room Lecture Hall

Summit Activities



Summit Activities

Lynn Orstad Awards

April 8, 4:15 pm – 4:45 pm
Carson Hall, Victoria Conference Centre

In memory of Lynn Orstad, a female trailblazer in wildfire risk mitigation, FireSmart BC, FireSmart Alberta, and Co-operators are recognizing women in British Columbia or Alberta who have contributed to furthering wildfire resiliency in their community, agency or province. The Lynn Orstad Award – Women in Wildfire Resiliency is an annual award honouring women who have made significant contributions in wildfire resilience and advocacy efforts. Winners will be announced during this presentation.

Brought to you by the Co-operators and Firesmart BC, in partnership with FireSmart Alberta and First Nations Emergency Services Society.

Summit Social Event

April 8, 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm
Royal BC Museum (675 Belleville St.)

Join us for a fun evening of socializing, music, delicious food and local libations. This event is open to all conference and training participants, and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

BC Wildland Firefighter Awards

April 10, 9:15 am – 10:00 am
Carson Hall, Victoria Conference Centre

In recognition of the critical role wildland firefighters play in keeping the province safe, FireSmart BC, the First Nations' Emergency Services Society, and BC Wildfire Service have partnered to create the new BC Wildland Firefighter Awards. Individuals in wildfire response will be recognized during a special ceremony. Each recipient will receive a personalized award plus a \$1000 grant towards furthering wildfire resiliency efforts.

Training Social Event

April 11, 5:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Upper Pavilion and Courtyard, Victoria Conference Centre

All training participants and instructors are invited to join this annual tradition. This is an opportunity for you to relax and socialize with your fellow training participants while enjoying cold drinks and some great food.

Commemorative Coin



A Symbol of Resiliency, Unity, and Collaboration

Since 2022, the Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit commemorative coin has served as a meaningful emblem of our shared commitment to wildfire resiliency and community collaboration. More than a keepsake, it has become a valued collector's item that represents the dedication of those working to strengthen wildfire preparedness across our communities.

Inspired by the tradition of challenge coins, which symbolize unity, achievement, and recognition, this coin reflects membership in a growing network of wildfire professionals. It marks our collective progress, celebrates milestones, and honours the ongoing efforts of those who work tirelessly to protect our lands and communities. Whether exchanged as a token of camaraderie or kept as a personal reminder, each coin carries lasting significance.

Each year, we have worked in collaboration with local First Nations to ensure the coin reflects the cultural ties and shared values of the region. This year, the coin was created to acknowledge that the 2026 Summit is taking place on the traditional and unceded territory of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation. Their approval of this design helps ground the symbolic nature of the coin, and reinforces the importance of stewardship, respect, and protecting the lands and resources we all depend on.

As we gather in Victoria, BC, this year the coin takes on added significance as it marks the final commemorative coin in a series of 4. We hope they symbolize connections built, knowledge shared, and progress made together over the years through the annual Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit (2023 - 2026).

May it serve as a reminder of our continued commitment to resiliency, collaboration, and protection of our communities for generations to come.



The Wildfire Mitigation Program



A Decade of Assessments

Since its introduction in Canada in 2017 as the Home Partners Program, the Wildfire Mitigation Program has grown from a pilot project into a vital part of wildfire resilience across British Columbia.

With more than 600 Wildfire Mitigation Specialists trained over the past nine years, the program recently reached an important milestone: over 10,000 assessments completed.

The program has seen rapid growth after the successful pilot in several BC communities, helping thousands of homeowners better understand and reduce wildfire risk on their properties.

In 2025, the program reached its most successful year yet, completing over 3,000 assessments across the province. This growth was supported by the launch of the Train-the-Trainer program, which enabled communities to build in-house expertise and expand their capacity. During the year, 28 Wildfire Mitigation Specialist courses were delivered in First Nation and local governments. Many new homes earned FireSmart certification.

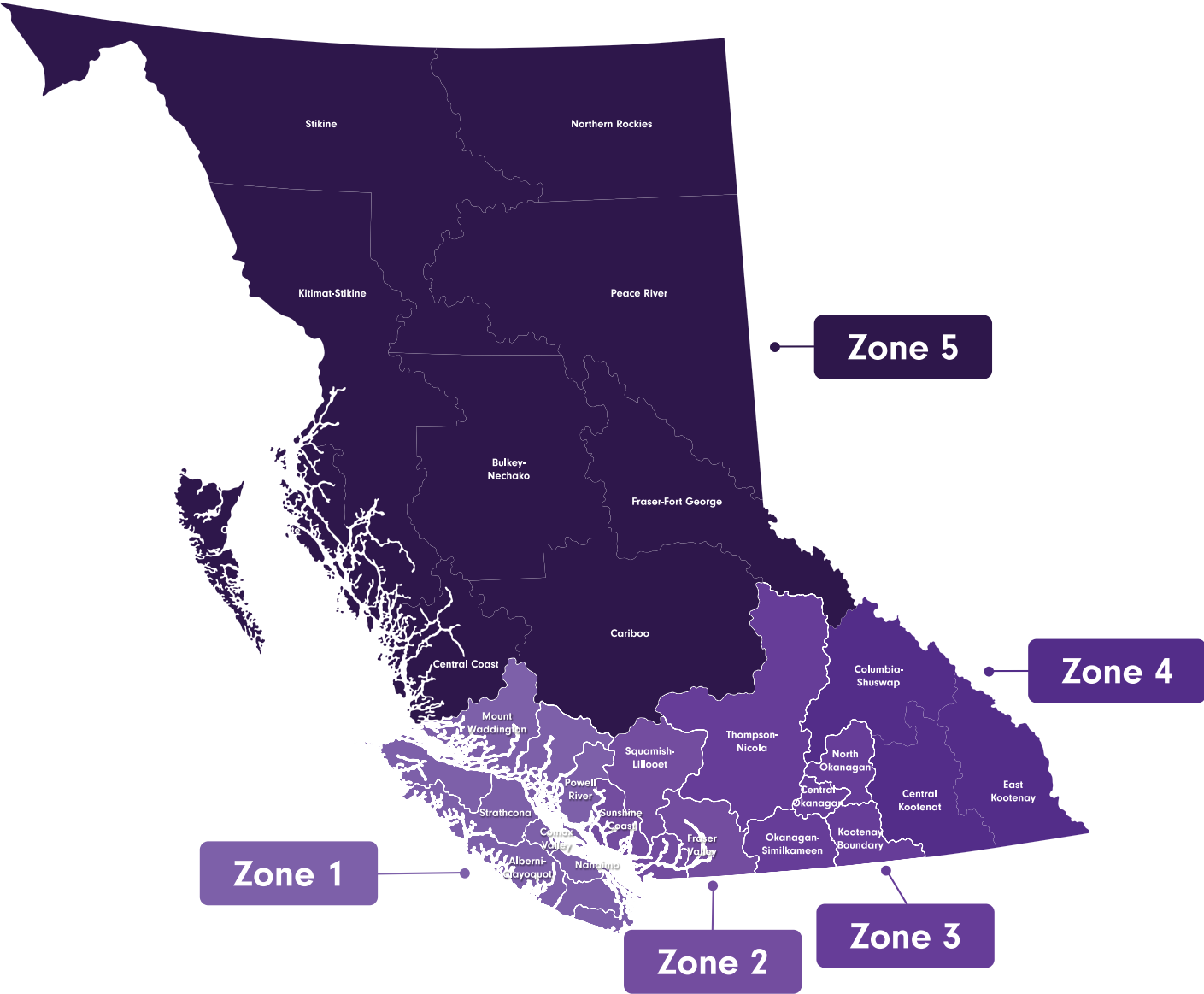
To All Wildfire Mitigation Specialists:

Your dedication extends beyond assessments. You are trusted leaders and respected voices in your communities. Your work creates safer communities.

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, the program is excited to continue supporting wildfire-resilient communities across the province.



FCABC FireSmart Zone Map



Thank You to Our Sponsors

The FireSmart Coordinator Professional Development Day is supported by:



Thank You to All Our Summit Sponsors:





WILDFIRE RESILIENCY AND TRAINING SUMMIT



For more information visit wildfiresummit.ca