

Emergency Preparedness For Communities

You Can Make a Difference!

Katherine Altman, AF Emergency Management Officer
2020 Agriculture Service Board (ASB) Regional Meetings



Emergencies Can Come From a Number of Sources / Incidents...





Image courtesy of Ft. McMurray Evacuee on Pinterest.



Image courtesy of the Calveras Animal Disaster Service





Image courtesy of Global News.



Image courtesy of Vulcan County Rancher who posted on Facebook; story carried by Global News.



Image courtesy of The Brandon Sun.

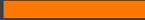


Image courtesy of The Cumberland News.



Image courtesy of Chris Morley

Be Prepared !



Individuals and Municipalities are the first two lines of responding to an incident...



Questions?

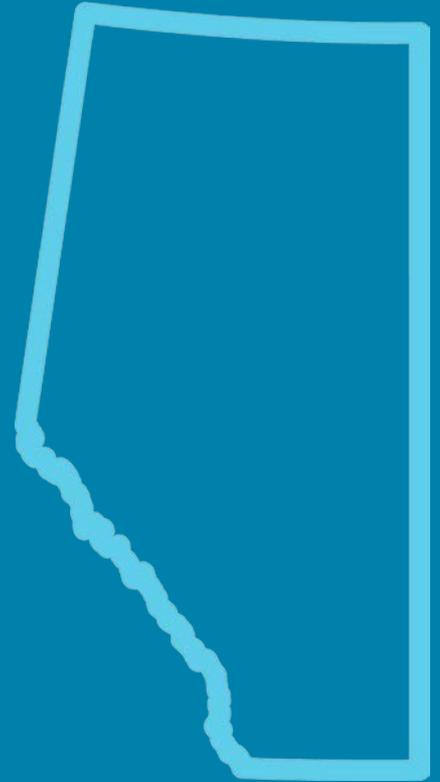
Katherine Altman

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Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)



Municipal Responsibilities – Emergency Management

- Emergency Management Act (EMA)
 - Emergency Advisory Committee
 - Emergency Management Agency (ASB interaction)
 - Director of Emergency Management
 - State of Local Emergency (SOLE)
- Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation (LEMR)
 - Community Emergency Plan (CEP)
 - Emergency Management Training

Municipal Responsibilities – Emergency Management

- Where may Agricultural Services be a player
 - Pets/livestock epidemic/disease
 - In conjunction with provincial and federal resources
 - May not be lead but rather assisting/cooperating
 - Plan preparation in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry an element of preparedness
 - Emergency Social Services
 - Requirement to provide adequate care as per EMA (19)
 - Care not only involves people but also pets/livestock
 - Need for livestock plan/Rancher/Farmer preparedness highlighted during southern Alberta fires 2017, Northern Alberta 2019

AEMA Field Officers

- Primary point of municipal contact – Director of Emergency Management
- Our primary roles
 - Review plans
 - Make recommendations to content in addition to EM related policy development
 - Liaise with province/provincial resources during major emergency events
 - Provide guidance during major emergency activations
 - Point of initial contact re Disaster Recovery Program/Municipal Wildfire Assistance Program
 - Training

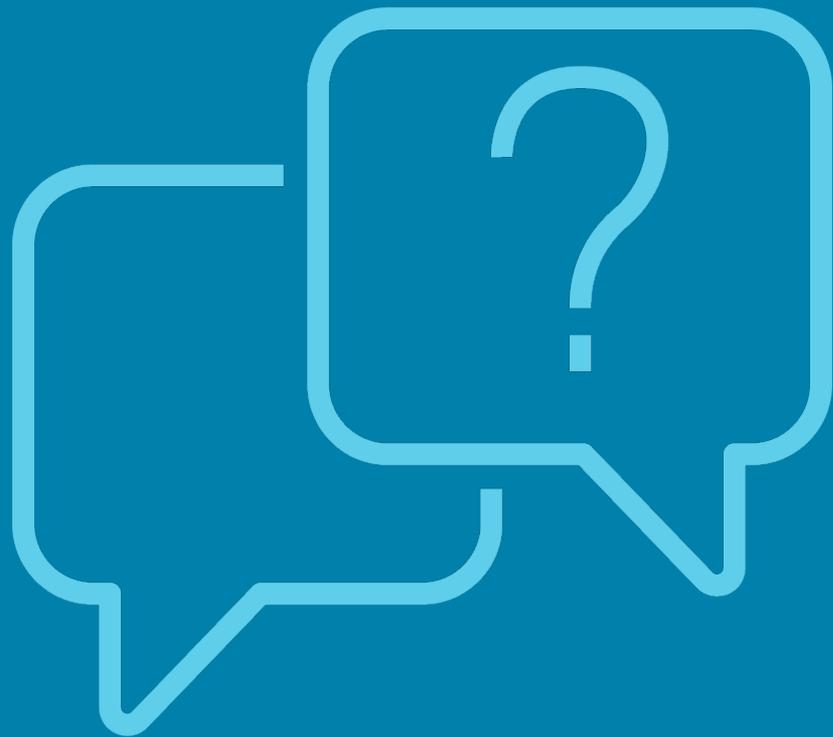
AEMA Courses Delivered

- BEM, DEM
- MEO (updating)
- Scribe
- ESS (PESS moving to AEMA)
- ICS 100, 200, 300, 400
 - Position Specific Courses possible, but problematic (instructor availability)
- IAP/Planning P workshop
 - Will be turned into a 3 day Municipal ICP/ECC course

AEMA Observations for Rural Municipalities and Settlements

- Livestock plan should be part of CEP to include
 - Evac plan and evacuation considerations
 - Known solution to coordinate re-entry for water and feeding
- Involve Ag Services representation in ICP and/or ECC
- Ensure municipality/settlement personnel become involved in Regional AHIMT
 - AHIMT is the best and quickest way to gain advanced ICS knowledge and experience.

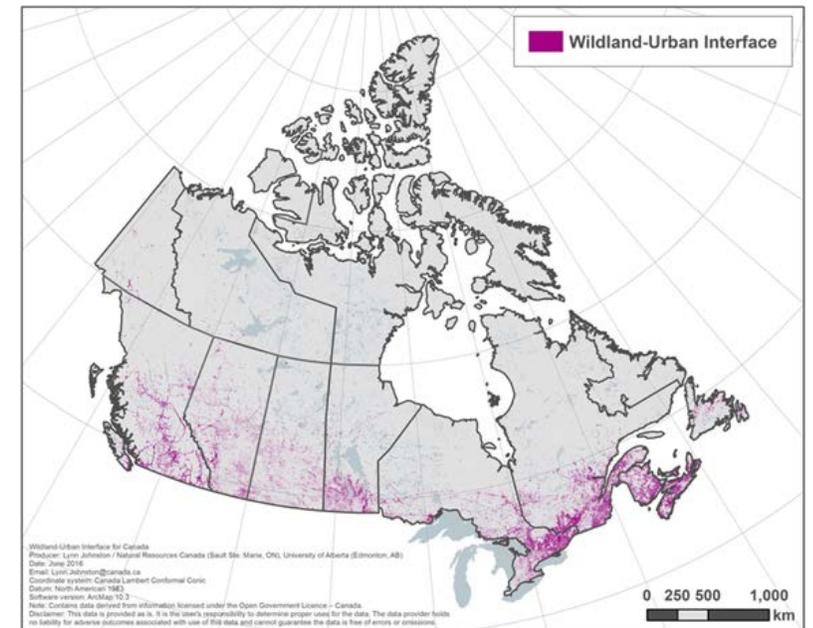
Questions?





The Need

- An estimated 11 million Canadians currently living in areas of significant wildfire hazard
- Climate Change
- Forest Health
- Increasing Development



The Seven FireSmart Disciplines

1. Education



2. Emergency Planning



3. Vegetation Management



4. Legislation



5. Interagency Cooperation



6. Cross Training



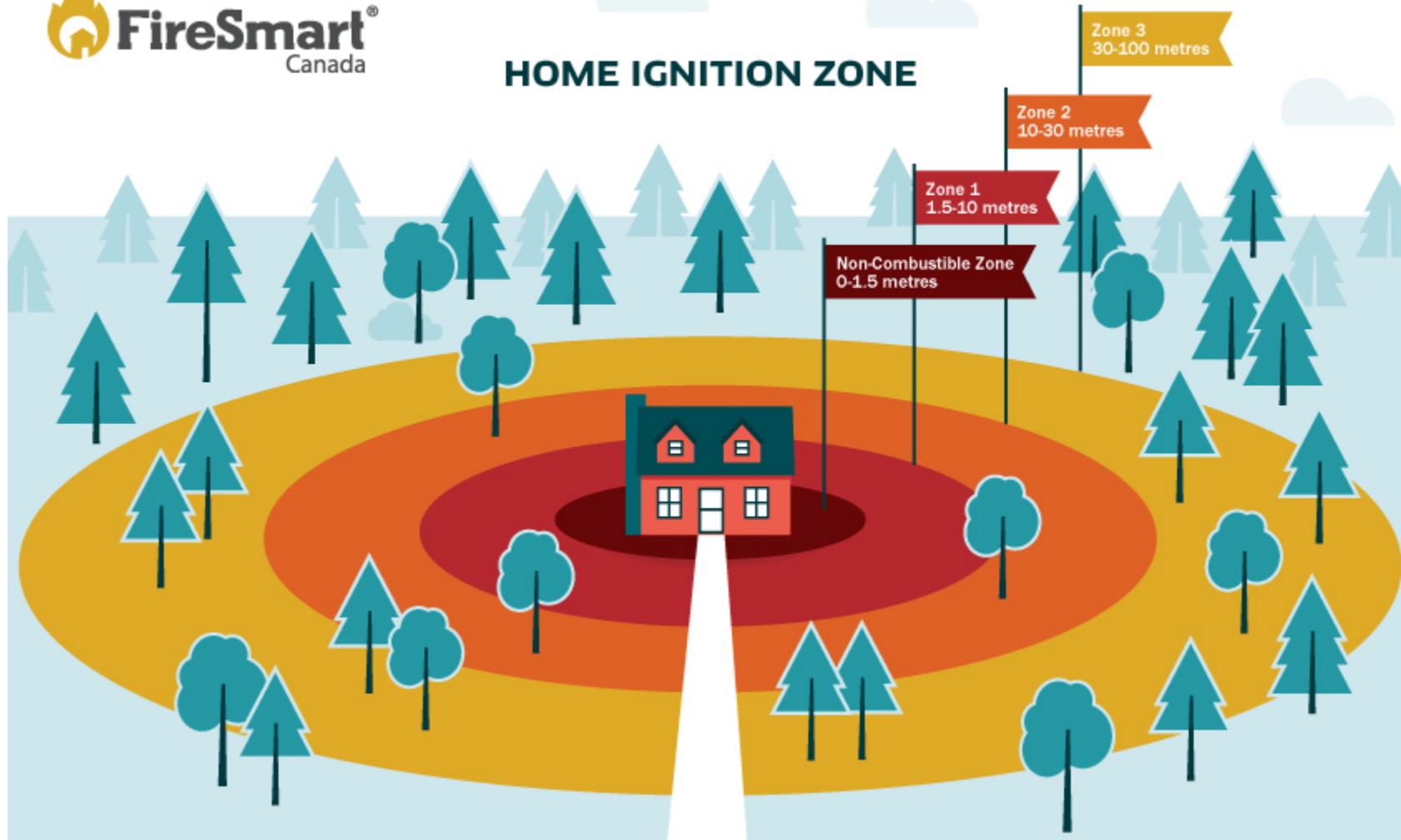
7. Development





- Flat Top Complex Wildfire Review
- Review of the 2016 Horse River Wildfire
- Kenow Wildfire Review
- 2019 Spring Wildfire Review
- *Emphasize a long-term vision for FireSmart within the province that includes community responsibility, multi-agency collaboration and an outcome-based approach to implementing FireSmart Projects. Ensure all seven disciplines of FireSmart are addressed.*

HOME IGNITION ZONE



SOLUTIONS WE'RE WORKING ON

(We're just getting started)



Reducing Home Ignitions

- 90% of homes with non-combustible roofs and 10 metres of clearance will survive a major wildfire.
- Metal roofing is 95% less likely to catch fire in the event of a wildfire.
- **More than 90% of homes destroyed by wildfires are ignited in the backyards.**
- 50% of homes are lost due to poor design (complex exterior wall assembly, complex roof design)

We need to get in more backyards!



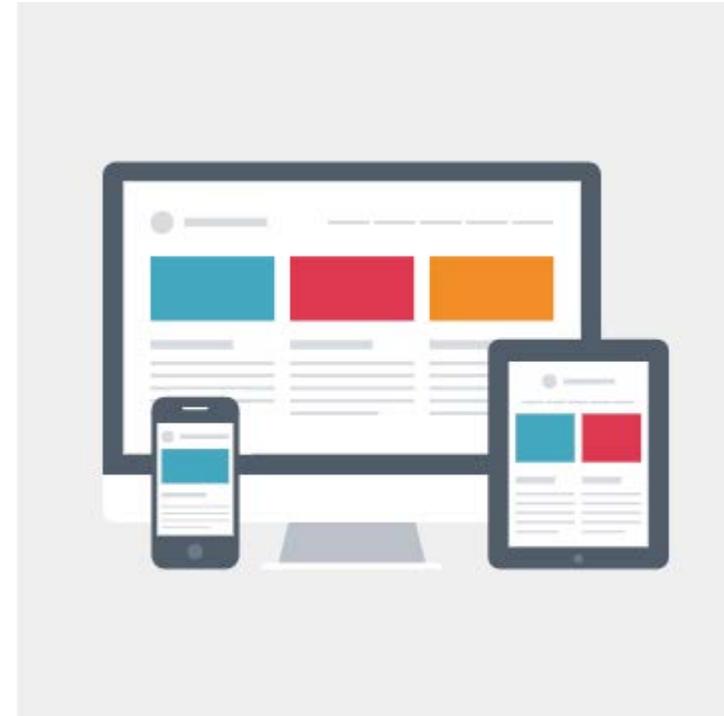
FireSmart Home Assessment Tool

- ✓ Standardized messaging
- ✓ Train the trainer workshop
- ✓ Reduced assessment questions
- ✓ Easy to understand homeowner report
- ✓ Better analytics
- ✓ Allow municipalities and Indigenous communities to get in more people's backyards



FireSmart Alberta Website

- www.firesmartalberta.ca
- Built for Alberta communities
- Find resources
- Connect with other communities
- Share ideas
- Share challenges
- Building a community



Workflow and Templates



- FireSmart committee work flow and terms of reference template
- Land Use Bylaw workflow and template
- Provincial FireSmart Strategic Plan
- Cross Training recommended course list
- Turn key courses and workshops
- Determine research priorities
- Webinars and virtual learning

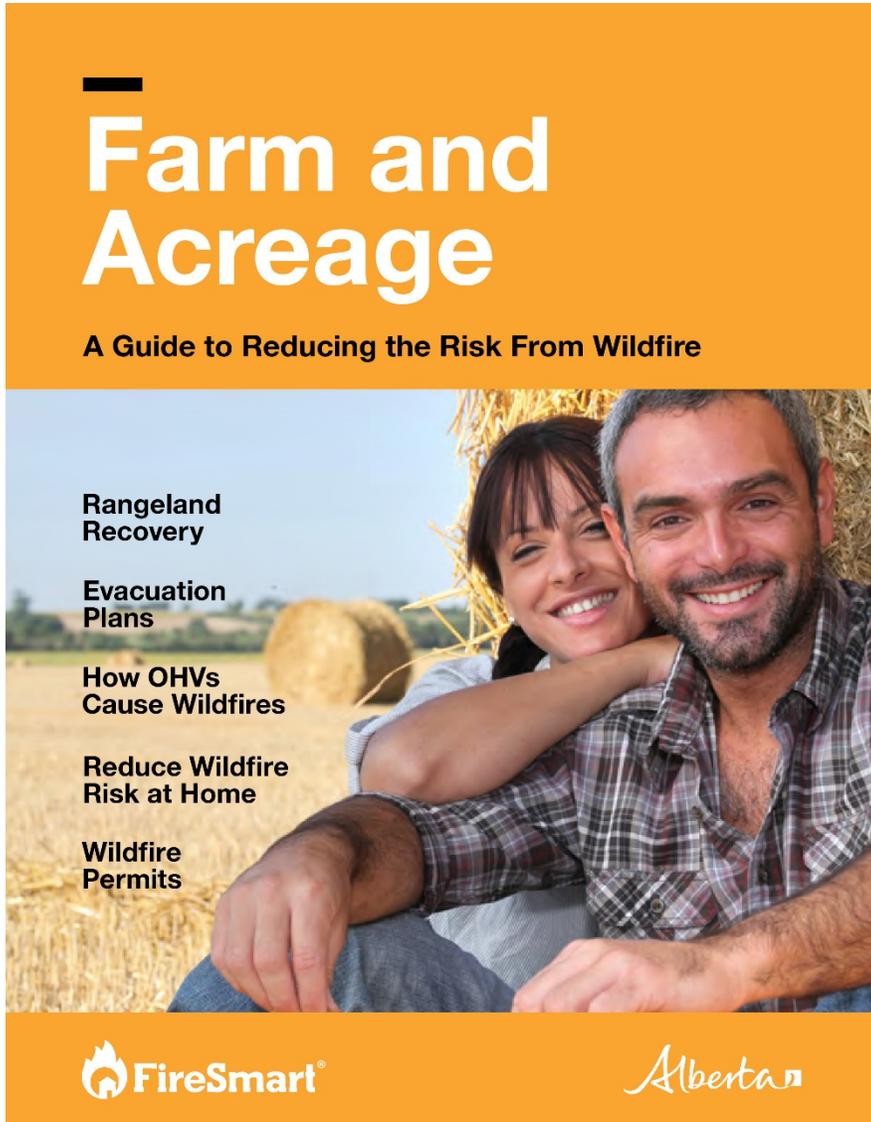


www.firesmart101.com

FireSmart Begins at Home Mobile App



Resources



Farm and Acreage

A Guide to Reducing the Risk From Wildfire

- Rangeland Recovery
- Evacuation Plans
- How OHVs Cause Wildfires
- Reduce Wildfire Risk at Home
- Wildfire Permits

FireSmart Alberta



FireSmart
Begins at Home
HOME DEVELOPMENT GUIDE
the co-operative



FireSmart
Begins at Home

Work with your neighbours to set up a trapping network

- Step 1: Assess your property
- Step 2: Create a plan
- Step 3: Implement your plan
- Step 4: Review and update

Begins at Home



FireSmart
Begins at Home
MANUAL



Checklist for Preventing Your Home and Property from Wildfire

- Eliminate Ignition**
 - Remove dead trees and branches
 - Remove brush and debris
 - Use fire-resistant materials
- Reduce wildfire severity**
 - Use fire-resistant landscaping
 - Use fire-resistant materials
 - Use fire-resistant siding
- Check around the house**
 - Seal gaps around windows and doors
 - Seal gaps around roof and eaves
 - Seal gaps around utility lines

FireSmart
The way to a better wildfire risk management plan



FireSmart
COMPLETIBLE RESIDUAL FACT SHEET



FIRESMART MINIMUM STANDARDS

- Roof
- Exterior walls
- Windows
- Doors
- Decking
- Landscaping
- Utilities
- Other

FireSmart

Thank you!

*Working together we will
create innovative solutions and
we can live resiliently with
wildfire!!*



Thank you!

Questions?



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FireSmart Specialist
Agriculture and Forestry
(and FireSmart Alberta)
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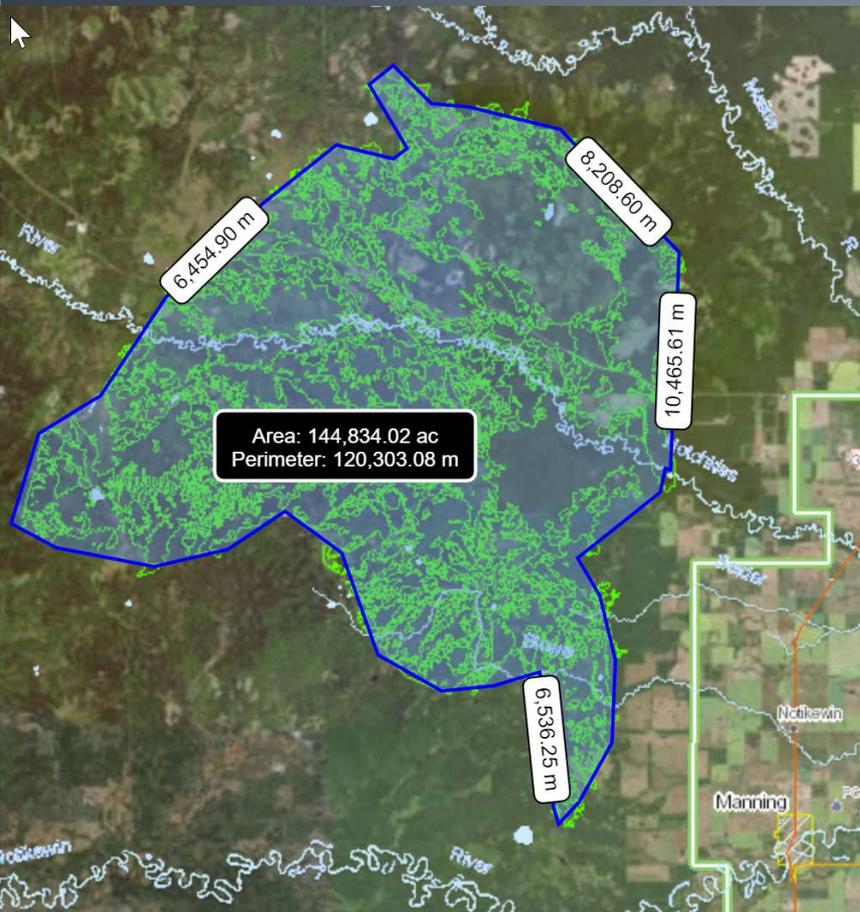
Emergency Planning for Livestock



What can a Municipality do?

Brad Andres, Alberta Agriculture & Forestry
Oct, 2020

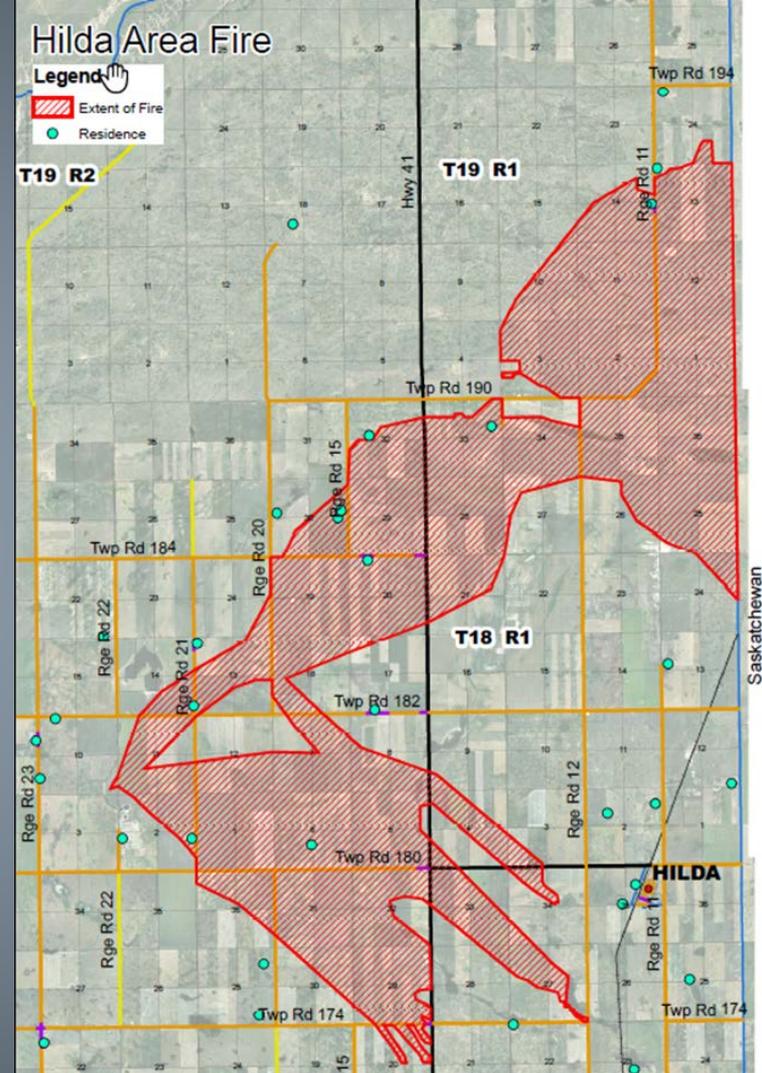
Wildfires



Not just Forest Fires

- High Wind
- Dry conditions
- Burning barrel, downed power line, old fire, etc.
- **Result:**
 - 26 sections (+) burned over
 - Over 350 head of cattle dead or needed to be euthanized

Alberta



Observations from Wildfire Reviews

- Communications can always be improved
 - Notification of farmers *(many key messages can be developed before event)*
 - Sending updates to evacuee's once they are out
- Unclear Roles and Responsibilities
 - What is Forestry's role when wildfires reach agriculture lands?
 - What is the municipalities role in fighting the fire?
 - What is the municipalities role in supporting/assisting farmers with evacuating livestock?

Observations *(continued)*

- Specific Ag issues:
 - What do farmers do with livestock when the evacuation order comes?
 - Once people are evacuated there often is no system for timely re-entry or even temporary re-entry to feed and water livestock.
 - Who should producers talk to during these events to get answers, or support.
 - Lack of knowledge in community's emergency teams for other local resources that are available (e.g. private equipment) .

Emergency Planning and Response Components – *Agriculture challenges*



Impact of Blindloss (CFB Suffield) Fire 2017

Image from CBC news webpage courtesy of affected farmer (Daryl Swenson)



Tools available

- Advance Planning template (previous slide)
- Template for “Re-entry in Evacuation Zone” procedure
- Mass Carcass Disposal Planning Guide
 - Assistance from AB Chief Provincial Veterinarian’s office
- Livestock Response Trailer Program (AB Farm Animal Care)
 - Lakeland College Livestock Emergency Response Course.
- Premises Identification data to help with planning

Potential Solution for Temp Re-entry Plan

Forest Closure - Access Permit System

- Allow users to access the evacuated area for justified purposes and to track those same people during the event.
- Permits are required for any person traveling within the closure area. This includes government staff.
- Permits applied for in person, and picked up the next day. Ensures consistency of permitting process and verification of justification.
- Example of conditions for “Landowner – Farmer”
 - *Emergency access to specified site*
 - *Permit valid from 0600-1300hrs on day of issue*
 - *Must use most direct route in/out of evacuation zone*
 - *No overnight stay permitted*

Sample Permit

AUTHORIZED VEHICLE PERMIT

This certifies that the following person(s) and vehicle(s) have approval to drive within the specified area as described.

XXXXXXXX COUNTY PERMIT NUMBER

2019-01-04-0129

ZONE OR AREA TO BE ACCESSED

Evacuation Zone 1

West of River

PERMIT TYPE

Farmer-Resident

DESTINATION

Residence and Farm at NW 22-36-10-W4

VALID FROM:

Wednesday, January 5, 2019 – 08:00

VALID TO:

Wednesday, January 5, 2019 – 19:00

ISSUED TO: Brad Andres

ISSUED TO COMPANY: Landowner

PHONE: 780-638-3204

E-MAIL ADDRESS: brad.andres@gov.ab.ca

MAILING ADDRESS: Box 53, Fawcett, AB, T0G 0Y0

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION: Grey Ford Ranger, License plate TAZ 621

RESTRICTIONS: Daytime access only

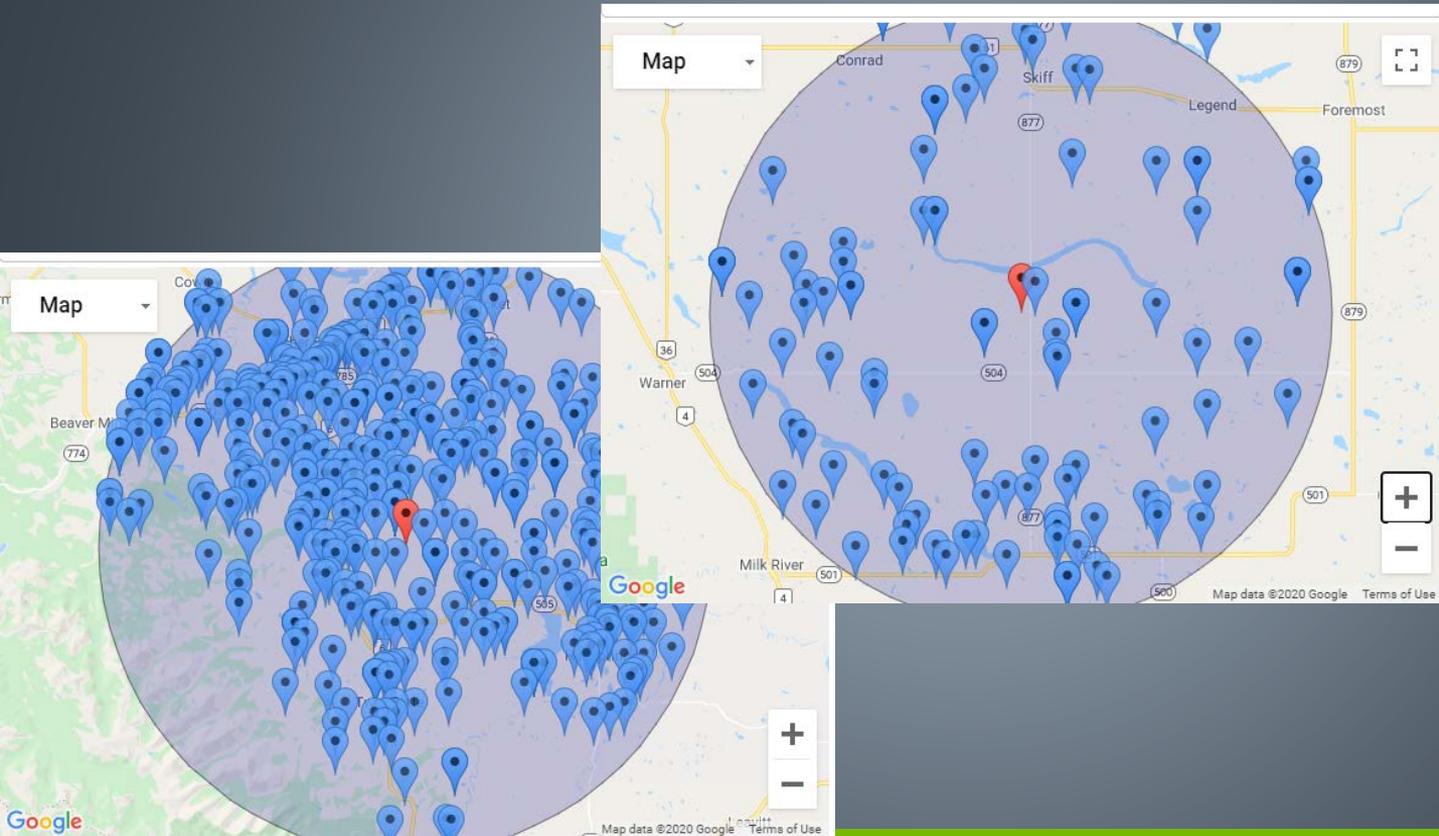
Access in/out via checkpoint at intersection of Hwy 44 and Secondary Hwy 663.

ISSUED BY:

Carcass Disposal - General

- Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation
 - Animals in care and control of owner may be buried on farmers own land if:
 - Total weight is less than 2500 kg/5000 lbs
 - Animals were not diseased
 - Set backs (as listed) are followed
 - Bottom of pit is at least one metre above the water table (reduce environment/water contamination risk).
 - IF weight of animals is greater than 2500 kg/5000 lbs then approval from Chief Provincial Veterinarian is required.
- What are options in your community for a large herd?

Sample of Farms in Southern Alberta



- Used to identify at risk animal locations by species
- Up to date contact information
- Telephone and email notification of animal disease problems in your vicinity and other emergency contacts.
- Has been used to confirm re-entry access

Summary

- Disaster and emergency response is lead by the community.
- These kind of events are happening more often.
- Your producers need clarity on what the community will or will not be doing So they can be ready.
- *Planning for regional exercises/discussions around livestock issues in Feb-Mar 2021*

Questions

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How to Reach Us....

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Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)

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AEMA Alberta Field Officer map with contact information for all regions was provided in presentation package to share with attendees.



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