



WILDFIRE RESILIENCY AND TRAINING SUMMIT

WILDFIRE RESILIENCY AND TRAINING SUMMIT

PROGRAM

April 20 - 24, 2024

Prince George, BC



BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmart[™]

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 territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, part of the Dakelh (Carrier) peoples territory.

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: WRTS2024

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: WRTS2024

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.



Welcome from the BC FireSmart Committee Chair



Welcome!

Welcome to the 2024 Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit in Prince George, where our theme for the week is Recover, Rebuild, Prepare.

As British Columbia works to recover from its worst wildfire season ever, more than 700 firefighting professionals, FireSmart experts and municipal, Indigenous and community leaders have gathered here in Prince George. Together we'll share lessons learned from 2023, along with the latest research, technologies, best practices and other information to help regions and communities prepare for the upcoming wildfire season.

As we approach what we know will be another challenging wildfire season, there's no question our ability to collaborate and share information will play a critical role in building wildfire resiliency and keeping BC communities safe. To that end, I encourage you to make the most of the valuable opportunities the Summit provides to celebrate existing partnerships and create new ones as we share our experience and knowledge at each session throughout the week.

On behalf of our Summit organizers and attendees, I want to thank our many partners and sponsors for their support of this year's Summit, as well as our host Fire Department from Prince George, led by Fire Chief Cliff Warner. I also want to thank the members of our Advisory, FireSmart BC and Operations/Training committees for their tireless work.

On behalf of myself, our advisory committee members, and all of the staff who have worked to make this event happen, we hope your experience is positive and meaningful. If at any time you need help with something, please don't hesitate to connect with us, either at the registration desk or with any member of our team identifiable by their branded vests.

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

Rachel Woodhurst

Chair, BC FireSmart Committee

Featured Speakers



Kara McCurdy | Wildfire Prevention Officer, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, Nova Scotia

Kara McCurdy has held varying officer positions and incident management team roles during her 33-year career as a first responder. During the past 13 years, she has used her training, experience and FireSmart best practises to help residents and communities become more resilient. Recognizing that no two communities are exactly alike, Kara encourages wildfire agencies to think outside the box when it comes to interacting with residents and encouraging them to act. This past year, she served the province as its lead Wildfire Investigator during a wildfire season that saw the loss of 239 homes.



Dr. Kira Hoffman | Postdoctoral Researcher, University of British Columbia and Bulkley Valley Research Centre

Dr. Kira Hoffman is a former wildland firefighter who now works as a professional fire ecologist and a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of British Columbia and the Bulkley Valley Research Centre. With the support of Indigenous-led initiatives and local ecological knowledge, Dr. Hoffman uses western science, including dendroecology, botany and archaeology, and techniques such as field sampling fire-scarred trees and controlled burns to better understand how present-day forests have been shaped by stewardship techniques and how ongoing fire suppression has eroded the resiliency of ecological and human communities.

Featured Speakers



**Westly Steed | Wildfire Risk Management Coordinator,
Government of the Northwest Territories**

Wes Steed is the Wildfire Risk Management Coordinator for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). Over his 40 years working with communities, contractors, Indigenous governments and GNWT staff, Wes has helped start the Fort Smith FireSmart Committee and developed community wildfire protection plans for Fort Smith and additional forested communities in the Northwest Territories. He began his wildfire career with the air attack program in the 1980s and has served as a structural firefighter and fire chief. During the fire season Wes serves as a Territorial Duty Officer, Regional Duty Officer, Incident Commander and Structural Protection Specialist.



**Mike Norton | Director General of Northern Forestry Centre,
Natural Resources Canada**

Mike Norton is the Director General of Northern Forestry Centre at Natural Resources Canada in Edmonton (Alberta), which specializes in wildland fire, forest health, land reclamation, and climate change research and supports the sustainable management of forests as a foundation for a vibrant industry. Mike started his federal public service career at Environment Canada in 2000, as the Associate Regional Director General, where he provided senior leadership on high-profile regional issues and led interjurisdictional water initiatives. He then joined Public Works and Government Services Canada as the Regional Director of Environmental Services and Contaminated Sites, where he led a major program remediating contaminated sites across Canada's north and providing other environmental services to federal government departments.

Featured Speakers



**Aislinn Gentles | OHS & Emergency Program Manager,
Saulteau First Nations**

Aislinn Gentles is the OHS & Emergency Program Manager for Saulteau First Nations. Aislinn was born and raised on the traditional territory of the Treaty 8 Nations, and currently works, lives, and plays on the territories of the Beaver, Anishinaabe, and Denendeh Nations. Aislinn studied at both St. Francis Xavier University and the University of British Columbia to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. Moving back to the Northeast full-time in 2016, Aislinn has spent most of her professional career approaching hazard mitigation from an Occupational Health & Safety lens before transitioning into Emergency Management. Aislinn began working with the FireSmart programming in 2022 and is excited to share her lessons learned with other new practitioners!



**Armel Castellan | Warning Preparedness Meteorologist,
Environment and Climate Change Canada**

Armel Castellan is a Warning Preparedness Meteorologist at Environment and Climate Change Canada, who works with emergency management organizations at all levels to inform operational decision making to optimise safety, efficiency and business continuity. Armel says the climate crisis is a health crisis that is making the job more critical and that cascading impacts of the past year's unprecedented wildfires will be felt for years to come. His clients include emergency management organizations in Western Canada, B.C.'s Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, local governments, First Nations and Inuit/Inuvialuit partners, provincial and federal ministries/departments and the media.

Event Agenda | April 20 - 24



Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit 2024 Prince George

Training Program

Prince George Conference and Civic Centre & Courtyard by Marriott

Friday, April 19		
Time	Session	Room
1500 - 1700	Early Registration	PG Conference and Civic Centre Foyer

Saturday, April 20		
Time	Session	Room
0700 - 1700	Registration	PG Conference and Civic Centre Foyer
0700 - 0800	Breakfast	PG Conference and Civic Centre Ballroom
0800 - 0815	Welcome and Opening Remarks Welcome: Lheidli T'enneh Cliff Warner , Fire Chief, Prince George Fire Rescue	PG Conference and Civic Centre Ballroom

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0815 - 0900	Keynote 1 - Fire Weather 101 Fire behavior is driven by three critical factors; fuel, topography, and weather. This presentation will provide an overview of how weather conditions create and drive the wildland fire environment. Understanding the basics of fire meteorology and the Fire Behavior Prediction system will enable structural fire fighters to more effectively aid in the response to wildland fires. Matthew MacDonald , Lead Fire Weather Forecaster, Predictive Services Unit, BC Wildfire Service			PG Conference and Civic Centre Ballroom
0900 - 0915	Transition			
0915 - 1215	Concurrent Training Courses - LEADERSHIP (Day 1 of 2)	Room	Concurrent Training Courses - OPERATIONS (Day 1 of 2)	Room
	Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)/Fire Branch <u>Instructors:</u> Dennis Craig, Travis Whiting	PG Conference and Civic Centre Room 201-203	Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) <u>Instructors:</u> Class #1 - Bill Wacey, Ryan Davis Class #2 - Kevin Dalgarno, Kayla Topping	Courtyard by Marriott Fir Room Fraser Room
	Structure Protection Base/Staging Manager <u>Instructors:</u> Stephanie Dunlop, Brad Stickles	PG Conference and Civic Centre Room 204-206	Wildland Fire Fighter-1 'Train the Trainer' <u>Instructors:</u> Brittany Seibert, Steve Link	Courtyard by Marriott Pine Room
	Task Force/Strike Team Leader - Level 1 (TFL-1) <u>Instructors:</u> Lou Wilde, Patrick McConnell	PG Conference and Civic Centre Room 207	Engine Boss (ENGB) <u>Instructors:</u> Brent Watson, Kris Anderson, Paul Windsor, Stephen Melanson, Kelly Johnston, Kirk Corby	Off-site
	Task Force/Strike Team Leader - Advanced <u>Instructors:</u> Larry Watkinson, Brian Hutchinson, Rob Krause, Scott Cronquist, Dwight Seymour	PG Conference and Civic Centre Room 208	Wildfire Operations 'Boots on the Ground' <u>Instructors:</u> Jeremy Kostyshyn, Gage Melanson, Samuel Crosby, Timothy Bigelow	Courtyard by Marriott Spruce Room
1215 - 1315	Lunch			PG Conference and Civic Centre Ballroom

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1315 - 1630	Concurrent Training Courses - LEADERSHIP (Day 1 of 2)	Room	Concurrent Training Courses - OPERATIONS (Day 1 of 2)	Room
	Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)/Fire Branch <u>Instructors:</u> Dennis Craig, Travis Whiting	PG Conference and Civic Centre Room 201-203	Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) <u>Instructors:</u> Class #1 - Bill Wacey, Ryan Davis Class #2 - Kevin Dalgarno, Kayla Topping	Courtyard by Marriott Fir Room Fraser Room
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1730 - 2030	Social Gathering BBQ All training participants and instructors are invited to join this annual tradition. This is an opportunity for you to come relax and socialize with your fellow training participants while enjoying cold drinks and some great BBQ!			PG Conference and Civic Centre Foyer

Sunday, April 21		
Time	Session	Room
0700 - 1700	Registration	PG Conference and Civic Centre Foyer

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0700 - 0800	Breakfast			PG Conference and Civic Centre Ballroom
0800 - 0815	Opening Remarks Clayton Sheen , Deputy Fire Chief - Administration/Prevention, Prince George Fire Rescue			PG Conference and Civic Centre Ballroom
0815 - 0900	Panel 1 – Fire Services and First Nations - Moving Forward in a Good Way As climate change increases the intensity of seasonal fire behavior, more people are travelling to support emergency operations from different parts of BC, Canada, and the globe. Due to the nature of rapid response and resource sharing, responders often do not have existing relationships with the communities they are trying to support. The intention of this panel is to introduce skills that support good community relations during response efforts. The First Nations’ Emergency Services Society (FNESS) hopes to outline key avenues for communication, reciprocity, and respectful interactions, and will provide strategies on how to move forward together, in a good way. Introduction: Malina Garner , FireSmart Education and Outreach Coordinator, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society Moderator: Vic Upshaw , Response Support Team Lead, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society Panellists: Craig Moore , President, Rider Ventures Brian Hutchinson , Superintendent, Fire Services, BC Wildfire Service Larry Watkinson , Deputy Fire Chief, City of Kelowna Terrence Pierre (Lek’hoosh) , Wildfire Specialist, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society			PG Conference and Civic Centre Ballroom
0900 - 0915	Transition			
0915 - 1215	Concurrent Training Courses - LEADERSHIP (Day 2 of 2)	Room	Concurrent Training Courses - OPERATIONS (Day 2 of 2)	Room
	Large Water Supply Operations (Structure Protection) Instructors: Al Irwin, Kevin Hardy, Gord Noble, Rob Brown, Gord Parker, Alle Jan de Vries	Courtyard by Marriott Spruce Room	Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) Instructors: Class #1 - Bill Wacey, Ryan Davis Class #2 - Kevin Dalgarno, Kayla Topping	Courtyard by Marriott Fir Room Fraser Room

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	Structure Protection Base/Staging Manager <u>Instructors:</u> Stephanie Dunlop, Brad Stickles	PG Conference and Civic Centre Room 204-206	Wildland Fire Fighter-1 'Train the Trainer' <u>Instructors:</u> Brittany Seibert, Steve Link	Courtyard by Marriott Pine Room
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	Task Force/Strike Team Leader - Advanced <u>Instructors:</u> Larry Watkinson, Brian Hutchinson, Rob Krause, Scott Cronquist, Dwight Seymour	PG Conference and Civic Centre Room 208	Wildfire Operations 'Boots on the Ground' <u>Instructors:</u> Jeremy Kostyshyn, Chris Pendray, Cam Taylor, Mark Vohar, Carlos Martinez, Morgan Weddell, Alyssa Weller, Noah Loog, Dael King-Smith, Jordan Clark, Asher Young, Mackenzie Rowson, Gage Melanson, Samuel Crosby, Timothy Bigelow, Nathan Warren	Off-site
1215 - 1315	Lunch			PG Conference and Civic Centre Ballroom
1315 - 1630	Concurrent Training Courses - LEADERSHIP (Day 2 of 2)	Room	Concurrent Training Courses - OPERATIONS (Day 2 of 2)	Room
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	Task Force/Strike Team Leader – Level 1 (TFL-1) <u>Instructors:</u> Lou Wilde, Patrick McConnell	PG Conference and Civic Centre Room 207	Engine Boss (ENGB) <u>Instructors:</u> Brent Watson, Kris Anderson, Paul Windsor, Stephen Melanson, Kelly Johnston, Kirk Corby	Off-site
	Task Force/Strike Team Leader – Advanced <u>Instructors:</u> Larry Watkinson, Brian Hutchinson, Rob Krause, Scott Cronquist, Dwight Seymour	PG Conference and Civic Centre Room 208	Wildfire Operations ‘Boots on the Ground’ <u>Instructors:</u> Jeremy Kostyshyn, Chris Pendray, Cam Taylor, Mark Vohar, Carlos Martinez, Morgan Weddell, Alyssa Weller, Noah Loog, Dael King-Smith, Jordan Clark, Asher Young, Mackenzie Rowson, Gage Melanson, Samuel Crosby, Timothy Bigelow, Nathan Warren	Off-site

Conference Program

Prince George Conference and Civic Centre

Sunday, April 21		
Time	Session	Room
1200 - 1700	Early Registration	Foyer

Monday, April 22		
Time	Session	Room
0630 - 1700	Registration	Foyer
0730 - 0830	Breakfast	Ballroom

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<p>0830 - 0900</p>	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p>Welcome: Lheidli T'enneh</p> <p>Shannon Salter, Deputy Minister to the Premier, Office of the Premier Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests</p>	<p>Ballroom</p>
<p>0900 - 0930</p>	<p>Panel 2: Executive Panel – Recover, Rebuild, Prepare</p> <p>Hear from senior executives in emergency management organizations and local government as they discuss the recovery and rebuilding efforts following the unprecedented wildfires of 2023. Learn how to prepare and collaborate effectively to construct a wildfire-resilient province.</p> <p>Moderator: Briana Hill, Manager of Communications, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Panellists: Ian Meier, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Wildfire Service Simon Yu, Mayor, City of Prince George Lori Borth, Regional Executive Director, Omenica Region, Ministry of Forests</p>	<p>Ballroom</p>
<p>0930 - 1015</p>	<p>Keynote 2 – Achieving Resilience in the Face of Fire</p> <p>2023 was an extremely difficult season for Nova Scotia. 239 homes were lost to wildfires and one of the largest fires ever recorded in history. In a province where wildfires are primarily human caused and population is high, how do we achieve resiliency?</p> <p>Kara McCurdy, Wildfire Prevention Officer, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, Nova Scotia</p>	<p>Ballroom</p>
<p>1015 - 1030</p>	<p>Morning Break</p>	<p>Foyer</p>
<p>1030 - 1115</p>	<p>Concurrent Breakout Sessions 1</p> <p>Breakout 1.a – Wildfire Land-Based Recovery, What is it and How Does it Contribute to Resilient Landscapes?</p> <p>Wildfire Land-Based Recovery is a new program is led from within BC Wildfire Services and relies on strong partnerships with the Ministry of Forests, other Ministries, Industry, First Nations. In this session we will provide an overview of program and pose questions to the participants to help shape the emerging program.</p> <p>Reg Nolander, Director, Wildfire Recovery, BC Wildfire Service Sarah Gourlay, Ecological Wildfire Recovery Coordinator, BC Wildfire Service Kyle Miller, Provincial Wildfire Rehabilitation Lead, BC Wildfire Service</p>	<p>Room 204-206</p>

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	<p>Breakout 1.b – Wildfire Risk in Stswecem’c Xget’tem Territory: Settler-Colonial Barriers and Stswecem’c Xget’tem Solutions</p> <p>Stswecem’c Xget’tem First Nation (SXFN) partnered with the University of British Columbia to identify wildfire risk on unceded Crown lands surrounding their communities and explore SXFN-led solutions to address it. This research supports Indigenous stewardship sovereignty and the reevaluation of provincial legal objectives that constrain proactive forest stewardship for wildfire resilience.</p> <p>Georgina Preston, Master’s Student, University of British Columbia Ashley Camille, Crisis and Emergency Response Coordinator, Stswecem’c Xget’tem First Nation</p>	Room 208
	<p>Breakout 1.c – Assessing and Mitigating Wildfire Vulnerability to Homes and Infrastructure Through the Home Partners Program Assessment</p> <p>Although initiated by wildfires, wildfires do not spread through communities. Reviewing FireSmart best practice, the BC building code and WUI fire science, an examination of how to address and mitigate wildfire and structure to structure ignition hazards in both urban and rural settings utilizing the Home Partners Program, Home Ignition Zone Assessment will be discussed.</p> <p>Joel Hamilton, Wildfire Interface Specialist & Program Lead, Fire Chiefs’ Association of BC</p>	Room 201-203
	<p>Breakout 1.d – FPInnovations Fuel Treatment Research</p> <p>BC Wildfire Service has tasked FPInnovations Wildfire Operations group with investigating research questions surrounding forest fuel reduction treatments. In this session, FPInnovations researchers will present three research projects designed to evaluate the flammability of chipped debris, changes in microclimate conditions, and fuel treatment efficacy.</p> <p>Steven Hvenegaard, Senior Researcher, FPInnovations - Wildfire Operations Andrew Stack, Researcher, FPInnovations - Wildfire Operations Greg Griffiths, Researcher, FPInnovations - Wildfire Operations</p>	Ballroom
1115 - 1130	Transition	
1130 - 1215	<p>Concurrent Breakout Sessions 2</p> <p>Breakout 2.a – Wildfire Resilience: Defensible Building Design</p> <p>This breakout session will uncover crucial strategies for homeowners and communities facing escalating wildfire threats. Learn cost-effective FireSmart principles, landscaping techniques, and real-world case studies to fortify properties. Gain practical knowledge on defensible building design, empowering you to contribute to wildfire-resilient communities.</p> <p>Larry Watkinson, Deputy Fire Chief, City of Kelowna Peter Stantic, Captain, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, Kelowna Fire Department Dennis Craig, Assistant Fire Chief, Mitigation and Prevention, Kelowna Fire Department</p>	Room 201-203

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	<p>Breakout 2.b – Caring for Where We Live - A Collaborative Approach for FireSmart Communities</p> <p>Kaitlin Minvielle, Emergency Program Coordinator for Tseshaht First Nation and Randy Thoen, FireSmart Coordinator for Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, speak about the collaboration between Local/Regional Governments and Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations over successive FireSmart Grant Projects</p> <p>Kaitlin Minvielle, Emergency Program Coordinator, Tseshaht First Nation Randy Thoen, FireSmart Coordinator, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District</p>	Room 204-206
	<p>Breakout 2.c – FireSmart Landscaping – A Hot Topic with Homeowners</p> <p>Can FireSmart landscaping fit with what homeowners want? How does it harmonize with other parts of the environmental picture such as: water conservation, pollination, birds and other wildlife, native plants, and invasive species. Are FireSmart recommendations compatible with basic landscape design principles? Learn about the answers to these questions and other FireSmart landscaping best practices.</p> <p>Karla Hoffman, Landscape Consultant, FireSmart BC</p>	Room 208
	<p>Breakout 2.d – Community Forests at the Forefront: Collaborative Pathways to Wildfire Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience in British Columbia</p> <p>Community forests have emerged as key players in enhancing forest and community resilience. This session will highlight community forest managers’ experiences in wildfire preparedness, recovery, and resilience and will showcase the BC Community Forest Association’s partnership with BC Wildfire Service to enhance relationships and support innovative wildfire management.</p> <p>Aurora Lavender, RFP, MFC, Wetzin’kwa Community Forest Corporation Francis Johnson, RFP, Forest Manager, Esk’etemc Community Forest, Alkali Resource Management Jennifer Gunter, MRM, Executive Director, BC Community Forest Association Ken Nielsen, General Manager, Chinook Community Forest Chris Hodder, Manager of Wildfire Prevention, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Ballroom
1215 - 1315	Lunch	Ballroom
1315 - 1415	<p>Panel 3 – FireSmart Marketing and Communications: Changing Behaviour to Change our Landscapes</p> <p>Hear a variety of perspectives discussing the unique challenges and opportunities that come with marketing and communications in Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation and Response.</p>	Ballroom

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	<p>Moderator: Cliff Chapman, Director of Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Panellists: Justin Van Mulligen, Vice President, Operations, SitePartners Briana Hill, Manager of Communications, BC Wildfire Service Michael Marchment, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, Pemberton Fire Rescue</p>	
1415 - 1430	Transition	
1430 - 1515	Concurrent Breakout Sessions 3	
	<p>Breakout 3.a – FireSmart for Farms & Ranches</p> <p>From emergency planning to applying FireSmart principles to farm & ranch structures, there’s a lot of work to do to reduce the impacts of wildfire to the agriculture sector. This session will share resources to help you support farm and ranch residents and will provide an opportunity for you to join the discussion on where this work is headed</p> <p>Amy Norgaard, Climate Change Extension Specialist, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food</p>	Room 208
	<p>Breakout 3.b – Starting up FireSmart – Indigenous Community Project Guide</p> <p>Saulteau First Nations, a Treaty Nation on the East end of Moberly Lake (BC), started their journey with the FireSmart programming in 2020. Since then, they have worked diligently towards improving the wildfire hazards that exist within the community. Join us, as the Saulteau OHS & Emergency Program Manager walks us through the projects, funding streams, and highs and lows of their experiences with FireSmart programming.</p> <p>Aislinn Gentles, OHS & Emergency Program Manager, Saulteau First Nations</p>	Room 201-203
	<p>Breakout 3.c – Fire & Behaviour: How People Make Decisions About Risk</p> <p>People don't act on risk information in the ways that we expect. Well-informed people often fail to prepare and may even resist mitigation efforts. This session explores the surprising psychological factors that influence judgement under uncertainty. We will discuss evidence-based approaches for risk communication and motivating behaviour change.</p> <p>Jonathan Reimer, Manager, Emergency Programs, Emergent Risk Management / Capital Regional District</p>	Room 204-206

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	<p>Breakout 3.d – Post-Fire Examinations: Learning from Wildfire Disaster</p> <p>Post-fire examinations: learning from wildfire disaster. Join FPIInnovations to talk about 2023 post-fire examinations and what we are learning from these interface events. How post-fire data can help community recovery, FireSmart uptake, and improve resiliency.</p> <p>Kelsey Winter, Manager, FPIInnovations - Wildfire Operations Greg Baxter, Senior Researcher, FPIInnovations - Wildfire Operations Mike Richards, Advanced Investigative Solutions</p>	Ballroom
1515 - 1545	<p>Afternoon Break</p>	Foyer
1545 - 1645	<p>Keynote 3 – 2023 Northwest Territories and the Way Forward</p> <p>The Northwest Territories saw the most severe wildfire season in its history in 2023. They saw a record area burned, and an unprecedented impact on people and the places they call home.</p> <p>We explore how they’re fostering communities ready to live with wildfire by driving the seven FireSmart disciplines forward across the territory.</p> <p>Westly Steed, Wildfire Risk Management Coordinator, Forest Management Division, Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories Mike Westwick, Manager of Prevention and Mitigation, Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories</p>	Ballroom
1645 - 1715	<p>Lynn Orstad Award Presentation</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>Presenters: Laura Stewart, Provincial FireSmart Specialist, Alberta Forestry and Parks Brittany Seibert, Emergency Programs Manager, City of Penticton Brian Wynn, Fire Chief, Whitecourt Fire Department Jim Magowan, Fire Department Training Officer, Simpcw First Nation Amanda Reynolds, FireSmart Supervisor, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society Deanne Suddaby, FireSmart Program Advisor, FireSmart BC</p>	Ballroom

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1715 - 1730	Closing Remarks Amanda Reynolds , FireSmart Supervisor, First Nations' Emergency Services Society	Ballroom
1800 - 2200	Summit Social Event Join us for a fun evening of socializing, games, music, delicious food and local libations. This is an event you are not going to want to miss!	Coast Prince George Hotel (770 Brunswick Street)

Tuesday, April 23		
Time	Session	Room
0700 - 1700	Registration	Foyer
0730 - 0830	Breakfast	Ballroom
0830 - 0845	Welcome and Opening Remarks Welcome: UHNBC Prince George Traditional Drummers Joel Hamilton , Wildfire Interface Specialist & Program Lead, Fire Chiefs' Association of BC	Ballroom
0845 - 0945	Keynote 4 – Supporting Dynamic and Proactive Fire Management in British Columbia In British Columbia, four of the most impactful wildfire seasons on record occurred in the last seven years. Fire is a paradox, it's both a destructive disaster, but also a beneficial ecological process and cultural practice. As wildfire impacts grow under a rapidly changing climate, we are tasked with how to proactively manage wildfire. Dr. Kira Hoffman , Postdoctoral Researcher, University of British Columbia and Bulkley Valley Research Centre	Ballroom
0945 - 1000	Transition	

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1000 - 1200	Concurrent Workshop Sessions 1 & Breakout Sessions 4	
	<p>Workshop 1.a – FireSmart Coordinator Workshop</p> <p>Spend some time with other FireSmart Coordinators in a facilitated workshop that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update you on the latest and greatest programs • Provide you with networking opportunities • Give you the chance to provide feedback on what you need from FireSmart BC to be successful in your area • Learn about triumphs and challenges from other FireSmart Coordinators with well-established programs <p>Moderators: Willow Bloomquist, FireSmart Coordinator, Dashwood Fire Department Lucy Grainger, Education Officer, FireSmart BC Dan Stevens, Education and Outreach, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p>Facilitators: Stacy Reynolds, FireSmart Coordinator, Stellar’en First Nation Brayden Osborn, Fire Services Coordinator, Regional District of Nanaimo Wes Brassard, FireSmart Coordinator, Vernon Fire Rescue Services</p>	Ballroom
	<p>Workshop 1.b – Creston Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee: The Right People at the Table</p> <p>Regional and local FireSmart Resiliency Committees strengthen collaboration between local partners to coordinate, plan and share information on how to successfully implement the seven FireSmart disciplines. The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Community Funding and Supports program provides funding for the establishment of, and participation in, these Committees.</p> <p>In the Creston Valley, at the south end of Kootenay Lake, the Lower Kootenay Indian Band, the Town of Creston, the Regional District of Central Kootenay and partnering forestry licensees have established an approach to wildfire risk reduction that is both inclusive and innovative.</p> <p>Moderator: John Cathro, President, Cathro Consulting Ltd.</p> <p>Facilitators: Angela French, Planning and Development Supervisor, Creston Community Forest Nora Hannon, Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor, Regional District of Central Kootenay Caleb Rempel, Cultural and Prescribed Fire Specialist, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society Jared Riel, Fire Chief, Creston Fire Rescue</p>	Room 201-203

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	1000 - 1045	<p>Breakout 4.a – Understanding the Vulnerability and Resilience of Rural Communities to Wildfire in British Columbia</p> <p>This presentation explores the vulnerability of rural communities to building off a UNBC case study in the Robson Valley. It aims to highlight the importance of understanding community specific vulnerabilities and identifies opportunities to develop locally led initiatives that build community resilience to the risks of wildfire.</p> <p>James Whitehead, Engagement Analyst, Simon Fraser University’s Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue – Mitigating Wildfire Initiative</p>	Room 208
	1000 - 1045	<p>Breakout 4.b – Kanaka Bar</p> <p>On June 30, 2021, everything changed for the residents of BC’s Fraser Canyon as the Lytton fire devastated the town and surrounding region. Three years later, shovels are now hitting the ground and whether the region is building back better is to be determined. Come and listen to Lytton First Nation’s Rebuild Director, Patrick Michell, speak to what’s working (and not) regarding recovery, rebuild and future emergency preparation</p> <p>Patrick Michell, Rebuild Director, Lytton First Nation</p>	Room 204-206
	1045 - 1115	Morning Break	Foyer
	1115 - 1200	<p>Breakout 4.c – Wildfire-Ready: Practical Guidance to Strengthen the Resilience of Canadian Homes and Communities</p> <p>In response to escalating wildfire risks across Canada, the University of Waterloo’s Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation presents a report offering actionable strategies to enhance wildfire resilience. This session will address key factors driving wildfire risks, offer practical guidance for communities and residents, and discuss methods to mobilize action to foster a whole-of-society approach to wildfire resilience.</p> <p>Dr. Anabela Bonada, Director, Climate Adaptation Science, Intact Centre on Climate Action, University of Waterloo</p>	Room 204-206
	1115 - 1200	<p>Breakout 4.d – Strengthening Wildfire Resilience: Exploring Community Vulnerability and Social Capital</p> <p>The strength of a community’s social fabric can significantly influence its ability to withstand and recover from wildfire disaster. This session delves in to the critical concepts of community vulnerability and social capital within the context of emergency and wildfire management, offering insights into how these factors shape community resilience.</p> <p>Brittany Seibert, Emergency Programs Manager, City of Penticton</p>	Room 208

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1200 - 1300	Lunch	Ballroom
1300 - 1445	Concurrent Workshop Sessions 2 & Breakout Sessions 5	
	<p>Workshop 2.a – FireSmart Community Funding & Supports</p> <p>Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) will discuss the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports grant program and highlight program design changes that were made in 2024. Additionally, representatives from FNESS, BCWS, and FireSmart BC will be available to answer questions, discuss concerns, and offer support to applicants working through the application process.</p> <p>Moderators: Jonas Woodrow, Program Officer, Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities Lynsay Pacey, Program Officer, Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities</p> <p>Facilitators: Tony Botica, Wildfire Prevention Officer, BC Wildfire Service Grace Kyle, Prevention Specialist, Southeast Fire Centre, BC Wildfire Service Alyssa Christianson, Project Manager, FireSmart BC Andrew Flockhart, Wildfire Technician - Prevention, BC Wildfire Service Tom Hansen, Shuswap Emergency Program Coordinator, Columbia Shuswap Regional District Owen Price, Mitigation Specialist, Prince George Fire Centre, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society Marc Casas, Mitigation Specialist, Northwest Fire Centre, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p>	Room 201-203
	<p>Workshop 2.b – Quantifying FireSmart</p> <p>Join us for a panel and facilitated, interactive conversation on the economics of FireSmart and wildfire resiliency. We know that wildfire mitigation works, but can we quantify the benefits? How can we use this information to improve the uptake of FireSmart? This session aims to link researchers and practitioners to further identify questions and opportunities in this field. We strongly recommend attending the entire workshop.</p> <p>Moderator: Kelvin Hirsch, (Retired) Forest Research Director, Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service</p> <p>Facilitators: Dr. Bryan Bogdanski, Research Economist, Natural Resources Canada Alan Westhaver, Owner/President, ForestWise Environmental Consulting Ltd. Dr. Kira Hoffman, Postdoctoral Researcher, UBC and Bulkley Valley Research Centre Chris Chopik, Director, Resilient Homes Canada</p>	Ballroom

Event Agenda | April 20 - 24



	<p>1300 - 1345</p>	<p>Breakout 5.a – Health Impacts of Cascading and Intense Weather Hazards in BC (Wildfires/Smoke in Particular) as Seen from a ECCC Services Warning Preparedness Meteorologist</p> <p>The 2023 BC wildfire season has been declared the most destructive ever recorded. That declaration was made in mid-June, not even halfway through the wildfire season. Since that declaration the wildfires did not relent, and continued to ravage communities, putting lives at risk and creating a host of negative health impacts.</p> <p>This presentation will explore the climatological conditions that led to health impacts, the tools in place to manage one’s exposure and look at the seasonal forecasts for the upcoming season ahead.</p> <p>Armel Castellan, Warning Preparedness Meteorologist, Meteorological Service of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada</p>	<p>Room 204-206</p>
	<p>1300 - 1345</p>	<p>Breakout 5.b – Wildfire Disrupted - A case Study on How Prescribed Fire and Wildfire Interfaced on ʔaąam Reserve Lands</p> <p>In this breakout session, the presenters will recount two events: the July 2023, 4000-hectare wildfire and the April 2023, 1200-hectare Prescribed fire on ʔaąam Reserve lands. Review each event in the singular and then investigate the influence that the prescribed fire unit had on wildfire behaviour.</p> <p>Michelle Shortridge, Director of Operations, Capital and Infrastructure ʔaąam Community Julie Couse, Former Director of Lands and Natural Resources, Consultant, ʔaąam Community</p>	<p>Room 208</p>
	<p>1345 - 1400</p>	<p>Transition</p>	
	<p>1400 - 1445</p>	<p>Breakout 5.c – FireSmart Education Program</p> <p>Join Kelsey MacDonald, Ron Brent Elementary Educator, Lucy (BCWS), and Dan (FNESS) to gain insights from their recent Ron Brent school visit. This session will highlight program adaptability, fit for any learning environment. Learn why the FireSmart Education Program is a versatile, impactful program ideal for implementation in diverse educational settings.</p> <p>Kelsey MacDonald, Ron Brent Elementary School Lucy Grainger, Education Officer, FireSmart BC Dan Stevens, Education and Outreach Coordinator, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p>	<p>Room 208</p>

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	<p>1400 - 1445</p>	<p>Breakout 5.d – Helping Communities Take Ownership of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) Process</p> <p>The goals of Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRP) are to increase a community’s capacity and understand wildfire risk, foster greater collaboration, be more responsive to community’s needs, and develop achievable outcomes. We welcome all Local Government and First Nation communities to attend this session to hear from BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) and First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) who will provide guidance and information to ensure that your community has a strong voice in the development of your CWRP.</p> <p>Sean Slimmon, Planning Officer, Wildfire Resiliency, BC Wildfire Service Andrea Rainey, Wildfire Prevention Officer, Prince George Fire Centre Amanda Reynolds, FireSmart Supervisor, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p>	<p>Room 204-206</p>
<p>1445 - 1515</p>	<p>Afternoon Break</p>		<p>Foyer</p>
<p>1515 - 1615</p>	<p>Panel 4 – Community Recovery</p> <p>What happens after the disaster has ended? Or is it ever over? This panel will come together to discuss the aftermath of the aftermath. Community Recovery is often one of the least anticipated but most important components of the emergency management cycle. Hear from our panel of experts who have been through recovery on how your community should be preparing, based on their experiences.</p> <p>Moderator: Jason Brolund, Fire Chief, City of West Kelowna</p> <p>Panellists: Michael Higgins, Project Director, Climate Readiness, Risk and Recovery, Colliers Project Leaders Catherine Ruddell, Facilitator, Cultivating Safe Spaces Camellia Bhatti, Manager, Community Recovery, North</p>		<p>Ballroom</p>
<p>1615 - 1645</p>	<p>Honour and Remembrance</p> <p>Acknowledging the losses of the 2023 Wildfire Season.</p> <p>Introduction: Kurtis Isfeld, Director, Fire Centre Operations, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Presenters: Brad Litke, Senior Wildfire Officer, Operations & Aviation, Kamloops Fire Centre, BC Wildfire Service Darren Quinn, Fire Centre Manager, Southeast Fire Centre, BC Wildfire Service</p>		<p>Ballroom</p>

Event Agenda | April 20 - 24



1645 - 1700	Closing Remarks Kurtis Isfeld , Director, Fire Centre Operations, BC Wildfire Service	Ballroom
1945 - 2100	Movie Night The Test is a new one-hour documentary that explores the community of Logan Lake, Canada's first FireSmart community, and their eighteen years of FireSmart preparations leading up to the 2021 Tremont Creek Wildfire.	Room 201-203

Wednesday, April 24		
Time	Session	Room
0700 - 1200	Registration	Foyer
0730 - 0830	Breakfast	Ballroom
0830 - 0845	Opening Remarks Hannah Swift , FireSmart Program Lead and Chair of the BC FireSmart Committee, BC Wildfire Service	Ballroom
0845 - 0945	Keynote 5 – Wildland Fire Management in Canada – Whole of Society Approaches for Enhanced Resilience This session will provide an overview of activities taking place to transform wildland fire management in Canada, including approaches to build whole-of-society engagement to increase resilience, and Government of Canada investments to support wildland fire response, prevention, and mitigation. Mike Norton , Director General, Northern Forestry Centre, Natural Resources Canada	Ballroom

Event Agenda | April 20 - 24



<p>0945 - 1015</p>	<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> <p>Presenters: Amanda Reynolds, FireSmart Supervisor, First Nations' Emergency Services Society Alyssa Christianson, Project Manager, FireSmart BC Jonas Joe, Wildfire Technician, BC Wildfire Service Attila Nelson, Cultural and Prescribed Fire Specialist, First Nations' Emergency Services Society Vic Upshaw, Response Support Team Lead, First Nations' Emergency Services Society</p>	<p>Ballroom</p>
<p>1015 - 1030</p>	<p>Morning Break</p>	<p>Foyer</p>
<p>1030 - 1200</p>	<p>Zone Host Meetings</p> <p>Take the opportunity to meet the other wildfire professionals in your area. Whether you are a Fire Department, BC Wildfire Service, First Nations' Emergency Services Society, a FireSmart Coordinator or another wildfire community representative, this is your chance to spend facetime with the other FireSmart individuals in your neck of the woods. During this facilitated session you will get a chance to ask your questions and have them answered.</p> <p>Zone 1: Vancouver Island</p> <p>Jason Brolund, Fire Chief, City of West Kelowna Dennis Craig, Assistant Fire Chief, Kelowna Fire Department</p> <p>Zone 2: Lower Mainland</p> <p>Brian Hutchinson, Superintendent, Fire Services, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Zone 3: Central Interior</p> <p>Dave Stringfellow, Fire Chief, Erris Fire Department</p> <p>Zone 4: Kootenays</p> <p>Scott Driver, Fire Chief, City of Cranbrook</p> <p>Zone 5: North</p> <p>Rob Krause, Structural Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p>	<p></p> <p>Room 207</p> <p>Room 208</p> <p>Room 201-203</p> <p>Room 204-206</p> <p>Ballroom</p>

Event Agenda | April 20 - 24



1200 - 1300	Lunch	Ballroom
1300 - 1400	<p>Panel 5 – Reflections on the Emergency Response in British Columbia</p> <p>Emergency experts come together to share and discuss actionable recommendations for 2024.</p> <p>Moderator: Tony Pesklevits, Deputy Director, Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Panellists: Tanya Spooner, Manager, Emergency Programs, City of Prince George Dan Derby, Regional Fire Chief, Kootenay Boundary Regional Fire Rescue Cliff Chapman, Director of Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service Kurtis Isfeld, Director, Fire Centre Operations, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Ballroom
1400 - 1415	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Cliff Chapman, Director of Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Ballroom
1415 - 1500	Post-Event Networking (refreshments served)	Foyer

Summit Activities



Training Participant BBQ

April 20, 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Prince George Conference and Civic Centre

All training participants and instructors are invited to join us for this annual tradition. Come relax and socialize with your fellow training participants while enjoying cold drinks and some great BBQ!

Lynn Orstad Award Presentation

April 22, 4:45pm – 5:15pm

Ballroom, Prince George Conference and Civic Centre

In memory of Lynn Orstad, a female trailblazer in wildfire risk mitigation, FireSmart BC, FireSmart Alberta, and Co-operators are recognizing women 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. The 2024 winners will be announced during this presentation and presented with a physical award and a \$1000 grant to further their work in wildfire resiliency.

Summit Social Event

April 22, 6:00pm – 10:00pm

Coast Prince George Hotel (770 Brunswick Street)

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

Summit Activities



Movie Night

April 23, 7:45pm – 9:00pm

Room 201-203, Prince George Conference and Civic Centre

The Test is a new one-hour documentary that explores the community of Logan Lake, Canada's first FireSmart community, and their eighteen years of FireSmart preparations leading up to the 2021 Tremont Creek Wildfire.

BC Wildland Firefighter Awards

April 24, 9:45am – 10:15am

Ballroom, Prince George Conference and Civic 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.

Exhibitors

Make sure to check out our sponsor and exhibitor booths, located in the foyer of the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre, from April 20 to April 24.

Event Bus Schedule



All shuttles are subject to space availability and on a first come, first served basis.

Arrivals (from Prince George Airport to Hotels)

*Shuttle Bus will be curbside and to the right as you exit the arrivals terminal.

Hotels include Courtyard by Marriott, Coast, Hyatt Place, Ramada.

Friday, April 19, 2024

Departure Times (at Prince George Airport)
10:20 am
10:50 am
1:10 pm
1:50 pm
3:30 pm
7:55 pm
11:40 pm

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Departure Times (at Prince George Airport)
10:20 am
10:50 am
1:10 pm
1:50 pm
3:30 pm
7:55 pm
11:40 pm

Event Bus Schedule



All shuttles are subject to space availability and on a first come, first served basis.

Departures (from Coast Hotel to Prince George Airport)

*Shuttle Bus will be at hotel's main entrance (770 Brunswick Street)

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Departure Times (at Coast Prince George Hotel)
6:00 pm

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Departure Times (at Coast Prince George Hotel)
1:45 pm
5:50 pm

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Departure Times (at Coast Prince George Hotel)
4:00 am
8:15 am
9:40 am
11:10 am
1:35 pm
5:50 pm

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