



Bella Bella – Denny Island Emergency Response Plan

HAZARD ANNEX – WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE FIRE PLAN

*Central Coast Regional District
&
Heiltsuk Nation*

*Updated by Frontier Resource Management Ltd
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Bella Bella /Denny Island Wildland Urban Interface Fire Plan

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1 Fire Emergency Contact List

Refer to Bella Bella – Denny Island EOC call out list.

High Fire Hazard Conditions:

Notify the local Fire Response Team, consisting of:

Local Emergency Team – Heiltsuk Emergency Rep
- Denny Island Deputy EPC

Emergency Executive Committee – Coordinator
- CCRD Rep
- Secretary
- Heiltsuk Rep

Emergency Response Core Team – RCMP
- Ambulance
- Communication Officer
- Public Information Officer
- ESS Officer

Emergency Response Operations – Fire Halls
- BC Wildfire Service

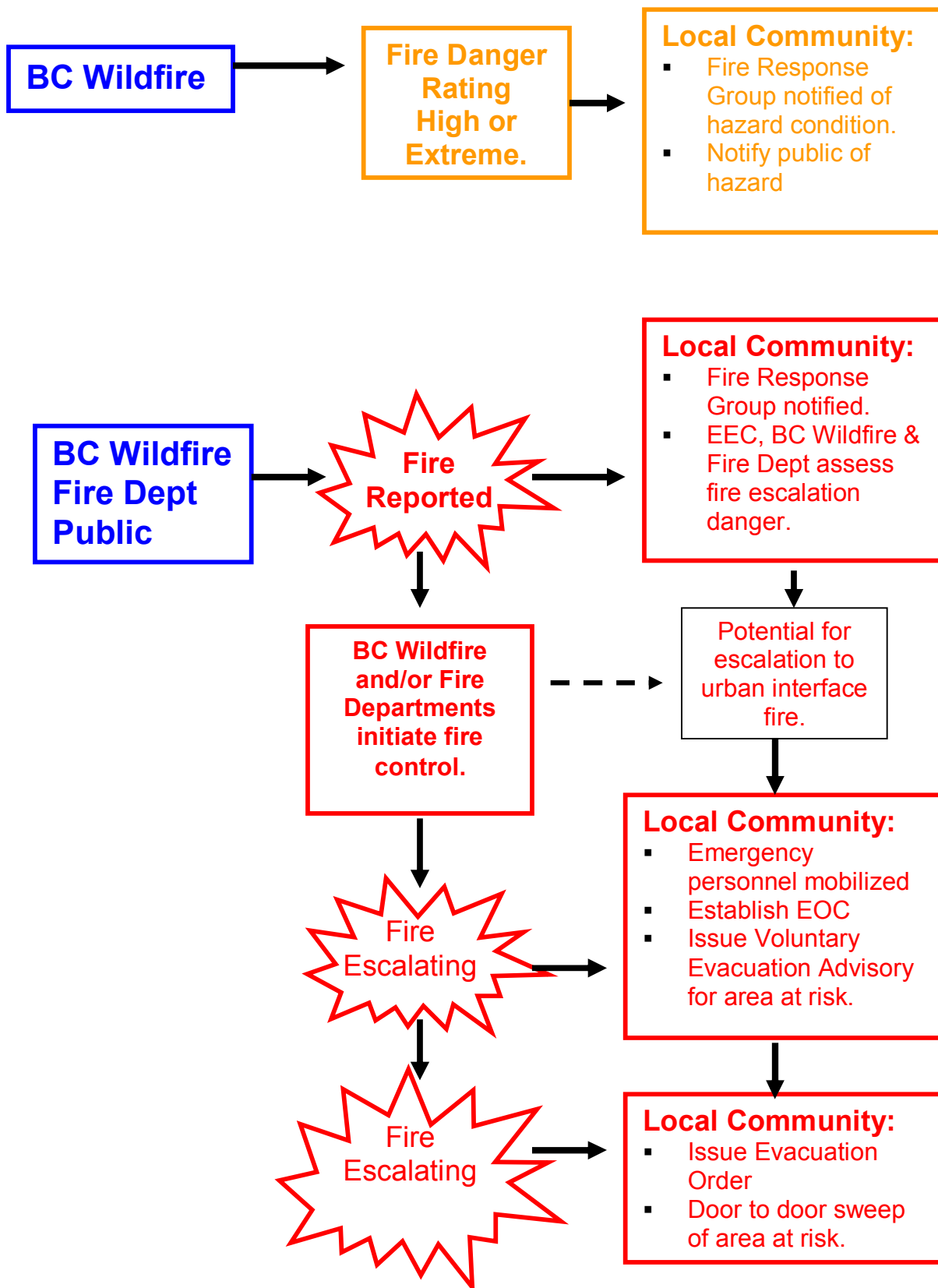
Fire Reported:

All of above, plus hospital and Coast Guard

LET, EEC, BC Wildfire Service and Fire Department evaluate threat of escalation to urban interface fire and decide on course of action.

Initiate Call out to residents in Danger zone.

2 Fire Emergency Response Plan



2.1 Fire Response Organization

BC Wildfire Service (Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development) is responsible for fires on crown forest lands. Local governments have the primary responsibility for fire protection and response for areas within their jurisdiction. However, protocols are in place whereby BC Wildfire will direct and control urban interface fire operations. For further details about Provincial system for interface fire control see the “British Columbia Provincial Coordination Plan for Wildland Urban Interface Fires” (2016) in Appendix 1.

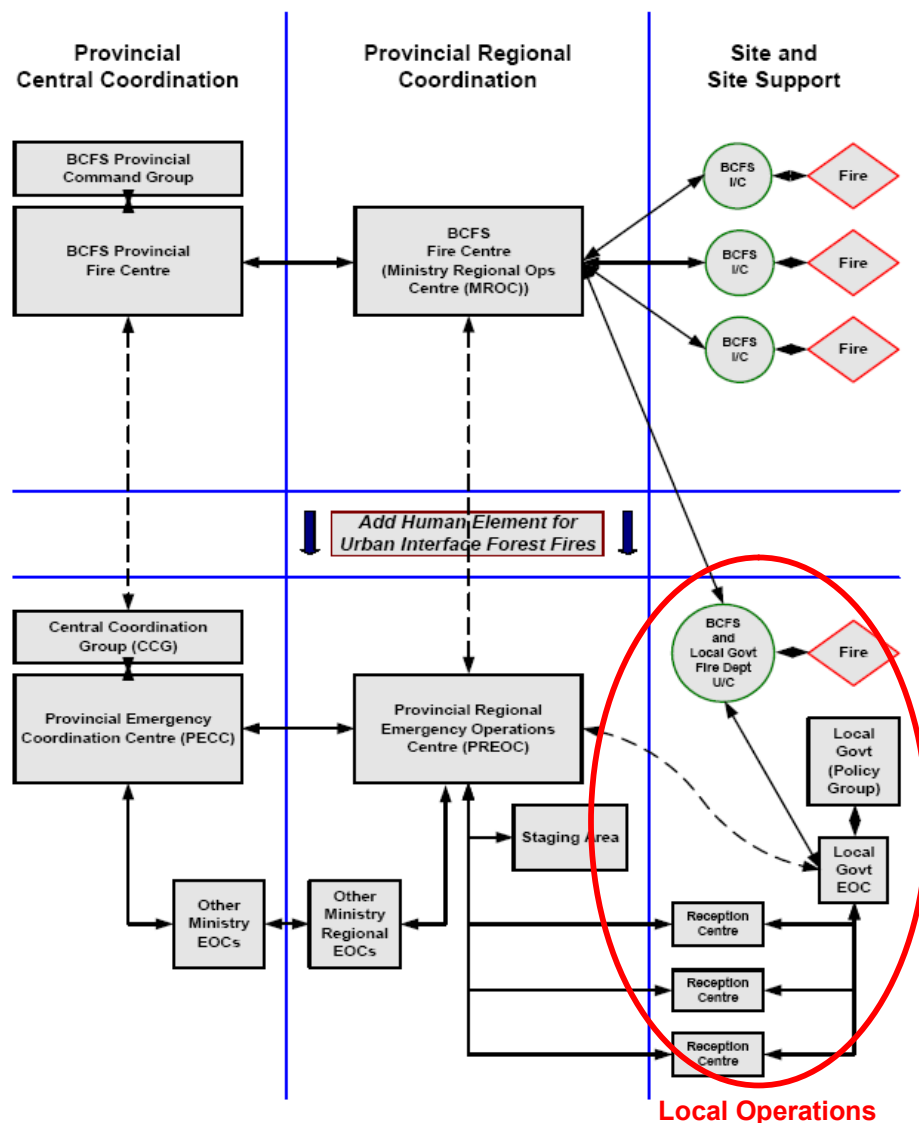


Figure 1 - Provincial Emergency Response Structure for Wild-Land/Urban Interface Fires

2.2 Local Government Responsibility

- Monitor interface fire risk
- Implement fire prevention/mitigation measures
- Identify and source equipment and other resources
- Establish response parameters in consultation with BC Wildfire Service officials
- Establish EOC to support on-site structural fire fighting.
- Direct local response (structural fire fighting) and assist BC Wildfire fire crews as requested.
- Coordinate evacuation and care of residents.
- Maintain liaison with the Incident Commander (Fire Boss), Fire Control Center and Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Center (PREOC).

2.3 Local Fire Response Team

The local Fire Response Group consists of the following individuals and organizations:

EEC	ESS Officer	PI Officer	Comm Officer
BC Wildfire	RCMP	Ambulance	
Fire Dept's	Hospital	Highways	

2.4 Fire Danger Rating System

The BC Wildfire Service monitors fire danger throughout the Province during the March-October fire season. Detailed Fire Danger Class Reports by geographic region can be obtained on the MOF website <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/DgrCls/index.asp?Region=2>

The Danger Class Ratings are as follows:

Low	Low fire danger.
Moderate	Carry out any forest activity with caution.
High	Fire hazard is serious. Extreme caution must be used in any forest activity. Burning permits and industrial activities may be restricted.
Extreme	Extremely high fire hazard. General forest activities may be restricted, including burning permits, industrial activities and campfires.

2.5 Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Refer also to the Bella Bella and Denny Island Community Wildfire Protection Plans (2006) for further information on fuel hazard ratings around the communities.

3 Fire Response Activation Levels

The Bella Bella/Denny Island Fire Emergency Plan may be activated by the EEC or Fire Response Group when there is potential for urban interface fire.

Threat Assessment/Monitoring

General monitoring of fire threat. EOC open during regular working hours. Provide information to public about fireproofing property in threatened areas. Strategically preposition structural fire fighting resources.

Enhanced Mitigation/Evacuation Stage 1 Alert

Situation deteriorating. EOC may become fully staffed 24/7. Enhanced mitigation activities implemented and preparations made for orderly evacuation of affected area. Voluntary evacuation initiated.

Fire Fighting/Precautionary Evacuation

Fire fighting commences in problem areas. Affected area patrolled 24/7. Precautionary evacuation of vulnerable populations commenced.

Fire Fighting/Evacuation Stage 2 - Order

High probability of interface fire. Full fire fighting implemented. State of Emergency declared. Mandatory evacuation ordered.

Evacuation Stage 3 – All Clear

Return to area permitted, demobilization and recovery commenced. EOC remains active at reduced level in case situation deteriorates and to help with recovery operations.

3.1 Pre-Event Preparedness and Response

During fire season (March 1 – November 1), the local Fire Response Group is to be notified when the local Fire Danger Class reaches 'High or Extreme' levels. The intent of this is to notify emergency personnel of imminent potential for fire. No actions taken at this time except to help notify local population of hazard.

Fire Response Group is to be notified of any fire in the Bella Bella/Denny Island area by BC Wildfire Service. This includes fires that do not initially

pose a threat to the community. This will put emergency personnel on stand-by alert. Initiate **Threat Assessment/Monitoring Activation level**.

3.2 Interface Fire Immediate Response

Upon notification of fire in vicinity of community, Fire Response Group to be put on high alert. EEC in consultation with BC Wildfire Service and Fire Department Officials will assess risk of fire escalating to interface fire and determine appropriate action. If potential exists, then initiate **Enhanced Mitigation/Evacuation Stage 1 Alert** activation level:

- Establish EOC.
- Mobilize Fire Response Group.
- Initiate call out to affected area.
- Initiate door to door warning.
- Assess need to pre-mobilize fire fighting resources.

Activation level may be upgraded to **Fire Fighting/Precautionary Evacuation**:

- Notify affected parties of increasing threat.

Continued deterioration of fire conditions will initiate **Fire Fighting/Evacuation Stage 2 – Order** activation level:

- State of Emergency is declared
- Evacuation becomes mandatory.
- Conduct door to door sweep.

3.3 Areas of Special Concern and Damage Potential

The primary infrastructures at risk from interface fire are homes and associated valuables along with power/phone lines. The fuel oil tank farms at the harbours are also vulnerable due to the close forest proximity. Power lines may be down for extended periods thereby invoking the Power Outage Emergency Plan (section 15).

There are certain times during the summer fire season when tourism traffic is increased that may warrant special evacuation needs.

4 Fire Emergency – Evacuation Plan

Interface fire can occur anywhere in the vicinity of the Bella Bella and Denny Island communities and individual evacuation plans that address the specific circumstances of each fire event will have to be formulated on the spot. Key components of a fire evacuation plan are outlined here along with important considerations and constraints.

Evacuation planning will commence during the **Threat Assessment/ Monitoring** activation level and the evacuation plan will be activated at the **Enhanced Mitigation/ Evacuation Stage 2 – Alert**.

Three stages of evacuation:

Evacuation Alert	People in fire threatened area are notified of potential evacuation and people should prepare for likelihood of quick evacuation.
Evacuation Order	State of Emergency issued. High likelihood of Interface fire. People are ordered to evacuate. Perimeter secured. Road blocks established. Door to door sweep of affected area.
All Clear	Danger has passed. People allowed to return to area.

4.1 Evacuation Routes and Safe Zones

Being island communities, the fall back evacuation option is for people to head to shoreline areas for evacuation by boat. In any other place of refuge, people should stage in an area where helicopters can land to provide support or continue evacuation.

Table 1 Evacuation Areas and Route Options

Location	Evacuation Options
Bella Bella Town Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If fire direction is uncertain people should stay close to the wharf area to be prepared for marine evacuation. • If fire is from the northwest, it may be practical that some people evacuate by car to the south ferry dock to await marine evacuation. • If fire is from the southwest people should not travel to the airport unless there is no other option as smoke may hinder aircraft activity and they may become trapped.
Denny Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If fire is from the northwest people should proceed to the Shearwater Marine wharf area for marine evacuation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If this route is impassable, they should head north to the Coast guard facility for marine evacuation. • The airport should only be considered as a last option as people may become trapped in this area and smoke may prevent air craft access.
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4.1.1 Establishment of Road Blocks

Location for safe road blocks will be determined on a case by case basis.

RCMP, Fire crews and or Heiltsuk Coastal Guardian Watchmen to staff road blocks.

4.1.2 Special Evacuation Requirements

Special evacuation assistance on a large scale only applicable if RW Large Hospital is threatened.

There may be invalid, house-bound people scattered throughout the communities and these would require special assistance.

Evacuation of animals will require special vehicles and coordination.

4.2 Fire Emergency – Prolonged Response

A prolonged fire emergency will likely entail an expanding evacuation program as fire moves throughout the islands. This will mean that people will have to evacuate off of their island to the neighbouring island or beyond. A ferry may be required to move people out by marine route to Port Hardy.

4.3 Fire Emergency – Recovery

Damage from fire can be expected to be severe and extensive so recovery may take months or even years.

Many people may not have fire insurance, and will require substantial assistance in order to recover and rebuild.

Power and phone lines can be expected to be down and new power poles will require installation. This may take a period of weeks, depending on how extensive the damage is.

5 Appendices

5.1 *BC Provincial Coordination Plan for Wildland Urban Interface Fire*

2016

See CCRD EMP Annex D – EMBC Supporting Emergency Response Manuals