

PANEL DISCUSSION

Wildfire Impacts, Prevention & Risk Reduction



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**FBCWA 31st WPDC 21st
Annual Joint AGM & Conference**
October 12-14, 2018

WILLIAMS LAKE, BC

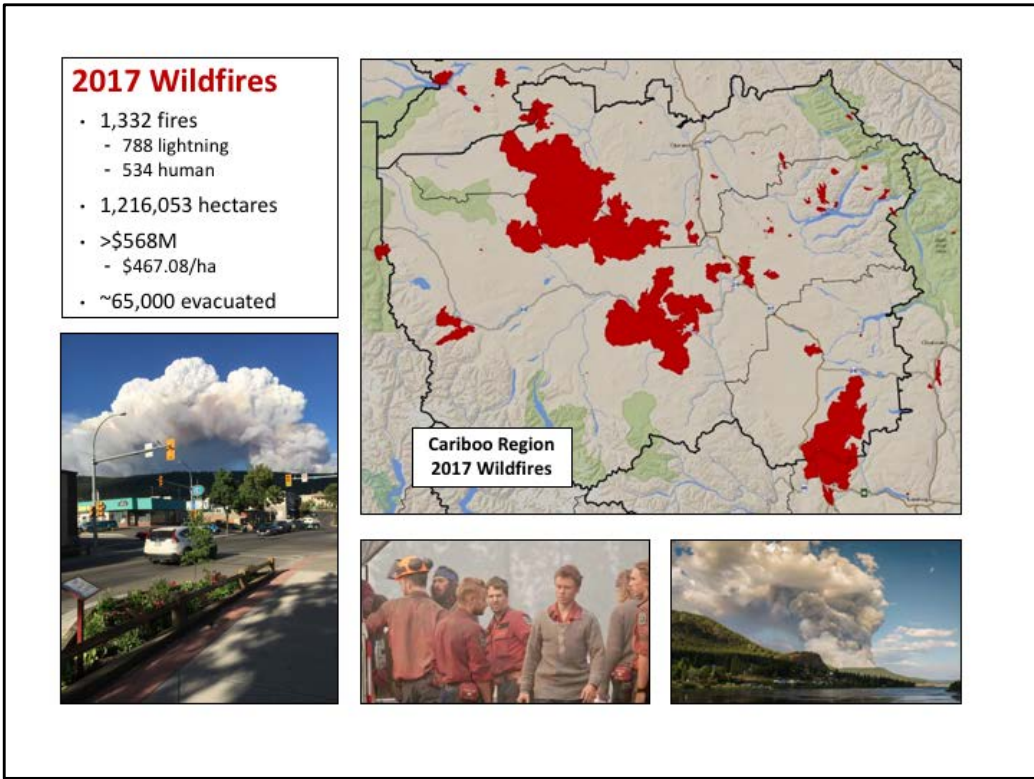
Panel Discussion

Wildfire Impacts, Prevention & Risk Reduction

Experiences of a 2017 Evacuee	Brian McNaughton, Evacuee
2018 Northwest Wildfire Season	Miles Fuller, Burns Lake
Impacts of Wildfires - Industry Perspective	Jeff Mycock, Chief Forester, West Fraser Mills Ltd.
Insects Response to Wildfires	Lorraine MacLauchlan, Regional Entomologist, FLNRORD
Reducing the Risk of Wildfires	Bob Gray, Fire Ecologist R.W. Gray Consulting Ltd.
Does BC need to change its forest management paradigm to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires?	Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester FLNRORD
Open Discussion - Questions	All



Up next is the panel discussion on Wildfire Impacts, Prevention and Risk Reduction. We have 5 very knowledgeable panelists who will make their presentations followed by Diane Nicholls, BC's Chief Forester discussing whether or not BC needs to change its forest management paradigm to reduce the risk of volatile, catastrophic wildfires. That will be followed by an open discussion period, so please note your questions and save them to the end.






In 2017, approximately 1,300 wildfires burnt 1.2M hectares. \$568M was spent on direct fire fighting costs alone. And 65,000 people were evacuated from their homes.

The lions share of the fires occurred around Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, Clinton, Cache Creek and all the small communities and rural residents in between were impacted.

2018 Wildfires

- 2,066 fires
 - 1510 lightning
 - 556 human
- 1,349,999 hectares
- \$462M (as of 22.09.2018)
 - \$342.22/ha
- ~5,500 evacuated







At the time the AGM location and theme was selected, little did we know what was going to happen in 2018. Not as many people had to be evacuated, and the amount of money spent on fire suppression was less, but in terms of hectares - more forests were burned than in 2017.

2018 Wildfires

Fire Centre	Total Fires	Lighting Caused	Human Caused	Hectares Burned
Northwest	156	112	44	837,378
Cariboo	306	258	48	66,594
Kamloops	425	273	152	55,417
Southeast	442	369	73	60,503
Coastal	291	158	133	174,995
Prince George	446	340	106	155,109
Total	2,066	1,510	556	1,349,999

Source: FLNRORD

**2017 & 2018 have been the two
worst fire seasons in BC's history**

Area (ha) Burned
(top 5 years)

2018	1,350,088
2017	1,216,053
1958	855,968
1961	483,097
2014	368,786



2017 & 2018 have been BC's two worst fire seasons in history ...and by quite margin.
And when you factor in ***click***

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**3 of BC's worst
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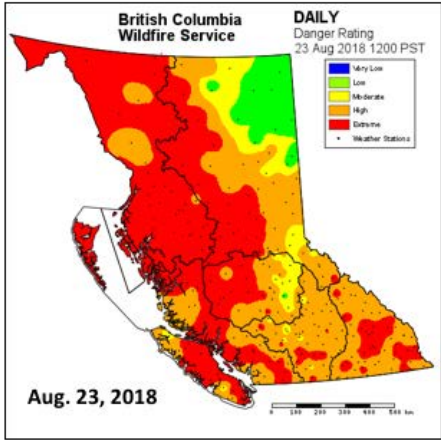


2014, BC has 3 of its worst 5 fire seasons in the last 5 years!



2017 & 2018

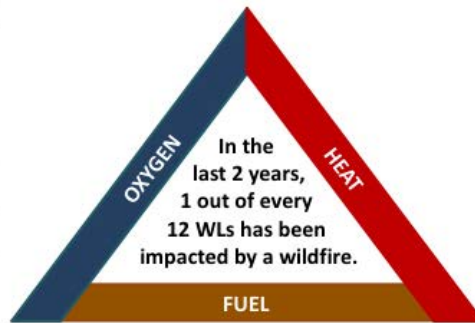
- More hectares burned than in the previous 25 years combined
- Approx. 4% of BC's forested area



More area has burned in the last 2 years than in the previous 25 years combined! ... an estimated 4% of BC's forested areas.

Woodlot Licences impacted by wildfires in 2017 & 2018

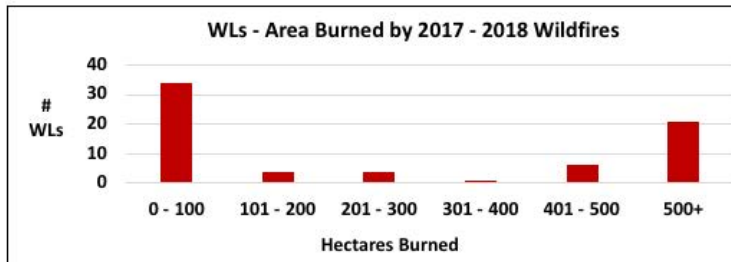
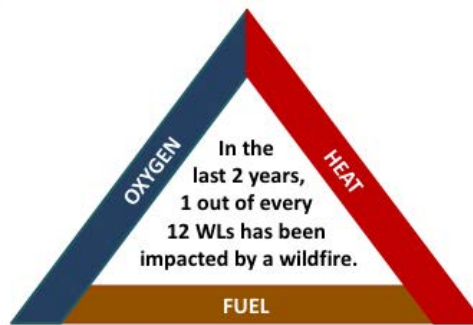
Year	# of WLS	Total ha burned
2018	33	10,187.1
2017	37	9,409.1
Total	70	19,596.2



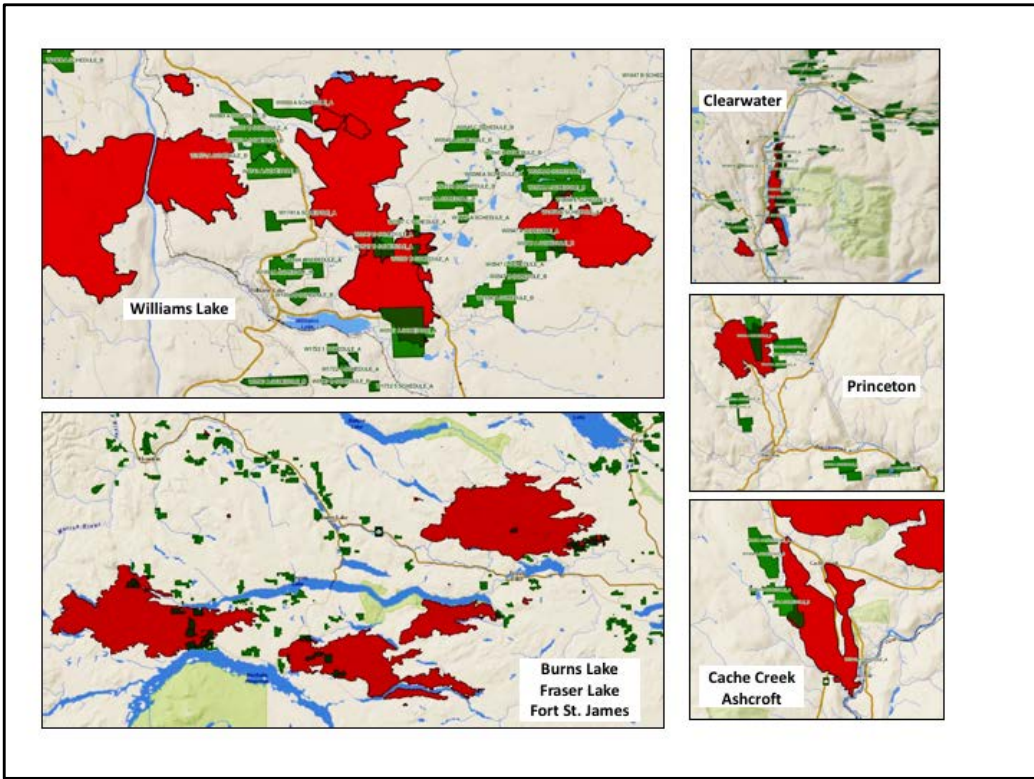
Or to look at it another way, 1 out of every 13 WLS in BC was impacted to some extent by a wildfire in the last 2 years! ***click***

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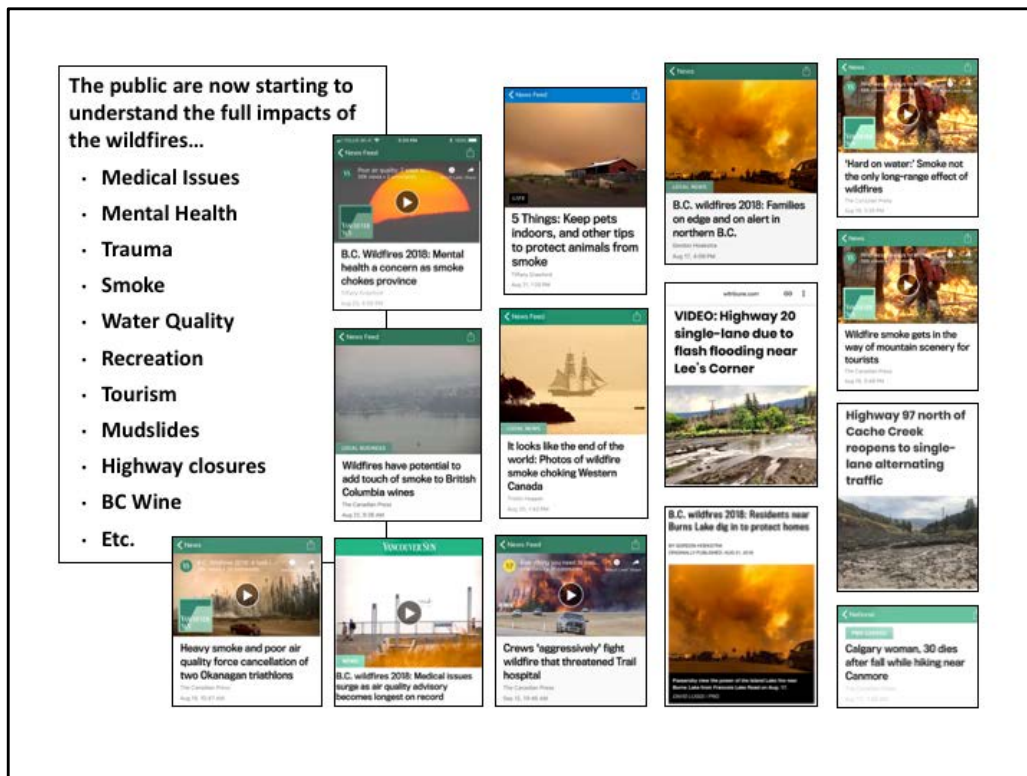
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And its not just about how much WL area has burned, its where those WLs are located – close to communities!



Factor in that the public and media are now more conscious than ever about the impacts of wildfires, not just on the forests and animals, but on human health, water, infrastructure and other things that society values – it is fitting that we are in here in Williams Lake to talk about wildfires including what we can do to prevent them or at least lessen their impact.

So with all that as the backdrop, we will move into the panel presentations.

First up is Brian McNaughton who is going to describe his experiences as a 2 time evacuee in 2017.