Public Services and Procurement Canada Western Region Client Relationship Management Team

L'équipe de la gestion des relations avec la clientèle de la Région de l'Ouest de SPAC

Client Communication from PSPC Western Region Client Service Team
May 16th, 2025

With the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, the PSPC Western Region Client Service Team is here to support you with essential resources and emergency preparedness guidance. Wildfires pose a significant threat to our communities, but the information provided is also valuable for other natural hazards such as flooding and severe storms.

Please forward this email to anyone in your organization who might find the information valuable.

Attached to this email is a resource guide on Emergency Procurement, designed to help you respond quickly and effectively in the event of an emergency.

Click on the four headings below to jump to a particular section

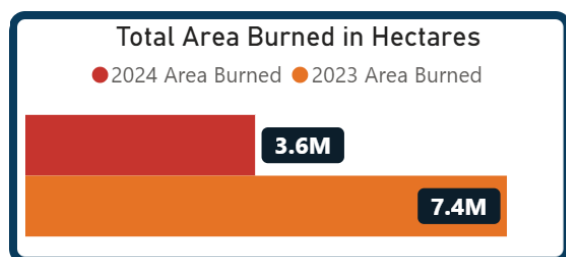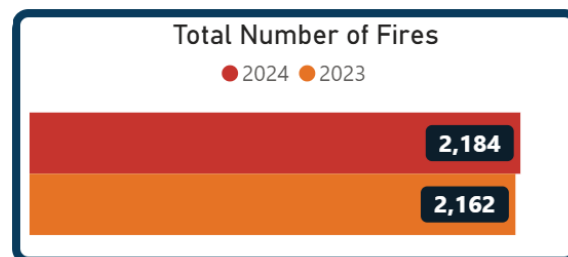| PSPC Western Region 2024 Summary	Wildfire & Smoke Mitigation Tips	Emergency Business Continuity Resources	Emergency Procurement Resources

2024 Western Region Wildfire Summary

PSPC Western Region experienced a notable wildfire season in 2024. Despite a 52% reduction in the total area burned and only a slight increase in the number of fires compared to 2023, the severity of the impacts remained significant. The Jasper Wildfire, in particular, has been classified as Canada's second costliest fire event and the sixth costliest natural disaster in the nation's history.

Extreme weather events continue to escalate across Canada, with flooding, hail, wildfires, tornadoes, and other severe occurrences posing substantial threats. Please read through the information in this email for mitigation tips, business continuity guides, and emergency procurement information.

Please note that PSPC Western Region encompasses Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. However, wildfire data is only available for AB, SK, MB, and NT, as no data was reported for NU.
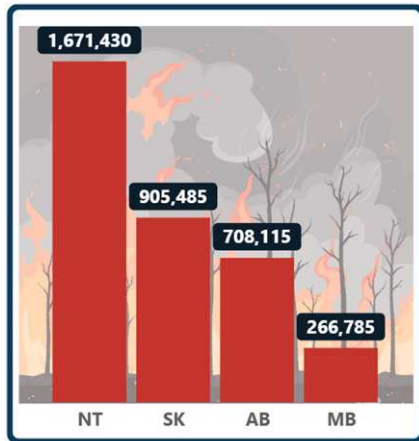
Total Area Burned in Hectares
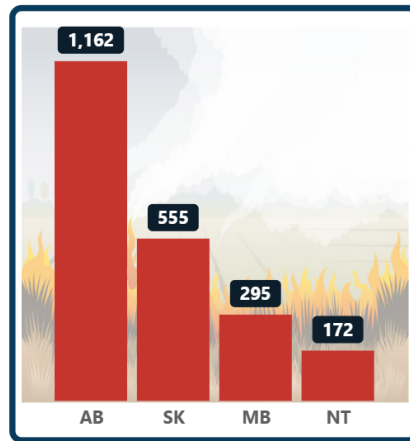● 2024 Area Burned ● 2023 Area Burned

3.6M
7.4M

PSPC Western Region Total Area Affected

Total Number of Fires
● 2024 ● 2023

2,184
2,162

PSPC Western Region Total Number of Fires

2024 total hectares burned by wildfires in PSPC Western Region	2024 total number of wildfires in PSPC Western Region	2024 total hectares burned – all of Canada

Total area affected (Western Region):
3,551,815 hectares

Total no. of fires (Western Region):
2,184

Total area affected (Canada wide):
5,322,086 hectares

Information and wildfire data from Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. – a not-for-profit corporation owned and operated by the federal, provincial, and territorial wildland fire management agencies.
2024 Wildfire Data Report

Preparing for Wildfires

The following tips from the National Service Call Centre are aimed at increasing resiliency in preparing for potential impacts by wildfires. These are pre-planning activities aimed at reducing risks to buildings and assets and to improve smoke management readiness. For more information you can reach out to the NSCC here: TPSGC.dgbicentredoperations-rpboperationscentre.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca.

*As a reminder in the event of an impact to assets and/or occupancy, the incident process must be initiated by contacting the National Service Call Centre (NSCC) at 1-800-463-1850.

Outdoor Precautions:
- Create and maintain fire break zones around buildings.
- Remove debris and combustible materials.
- Maintain vegetation and landscaping.
- Clear access routes for emergency vehicles.
- Install ember-resistant mesh on potential entry points.

Review and Update Plans:
- Update wildfire checklists and evacuation routes.
- Confirm emergency contact lists.
- Conduct fire drills.

Indoor Smoke Management:
- Use MERV 13 filters or higher for HVAC systems.
- Consider additional filtration or portable air cleaners.
- Ensure HVAC systems are properly sealed and maintained.
- Prevent infiltration of outdoor air pollutants.

Resources and References:
- Indoor Air Quality: Guidance for Cleaner Air Spaces
- Air Quality Health Index
- NRCAN Interactive map for active wildfires.

Business Continuity Resources

Visit the Centre for Resiliency and Continuity Management (CRCM) client pages for resources on Business Continuity Management (BCM) and Planning. They offer educational videos and tools to assist your department in planning for business continuity.

CRCM Resources
The following links are for the CRCM GCpedia and gcxchange pages where you can find a resource page dedicated to business continuity management.

CRCM Links

GCPedia
GCXchange

The resources include;
- Public Safety BCM Program Guide
- Business Impact Analysis Tool & User Guides
- BCM Governance and Program Management Templates
- Business Impact Analysis Guides

Emergency Procurement

The Treasury Board's Directive on the Management of Procurement outlines procedures for emergency contracting in emergency situations. Departments are authorized to enter into contracts up to **$3 million CAD**, including taxes and fees, under pressing emergencies if certain criteria are met. Additionally, PSPC can issue non-competitive contracts up to **$25 million CAD** for any department.

For more information please refer to the attached document for a quick reference to Emergency Procurement Information, you can also view the document here - Emergency Procurement Document.

For more information on procurement procedures during an emergency you can contact the Western Region Procurement Client Engagement Team here: RO PA Conseil mobil clients / WR AP Client Eng Adv (TPSGC/PWGSC)

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your Client Service Director for more information – thank you very much for taking the time to read this information.

You can reach the Western Region Client Service Team here:

TPSGC.RORelationalaclientele-WRClientRelations.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca

Or visit our GCPedia Page to find your CSD.