Ocean Falls
Emergency Response Plan

HAZARD ANNEX – WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE FIRE PLAN

Central Coast Regional District

Updated by Frontier Resource Management Ltd
January, 2018

Ocean Falls Wildland Urban Interface Fire Plan

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1 Fire Emergency Contact List

Refer to Ocean Falls EOC call out list.

High Fire Hazard Conditions:
Notify the local Fire Response Team, consisting of:

Local Emergency Team   – Ocean Falls Emergency Rep
   - Boralex Manager
   - Marine Harvest Manager
   - Ocean Falls Improvement District admin

Emergency Executive Committee – Coordinator
   - CCRD Rep
   - Secretary
Emergency Response Core Team –Communication Officer
   - Public Information Officer
   - ESS Officer
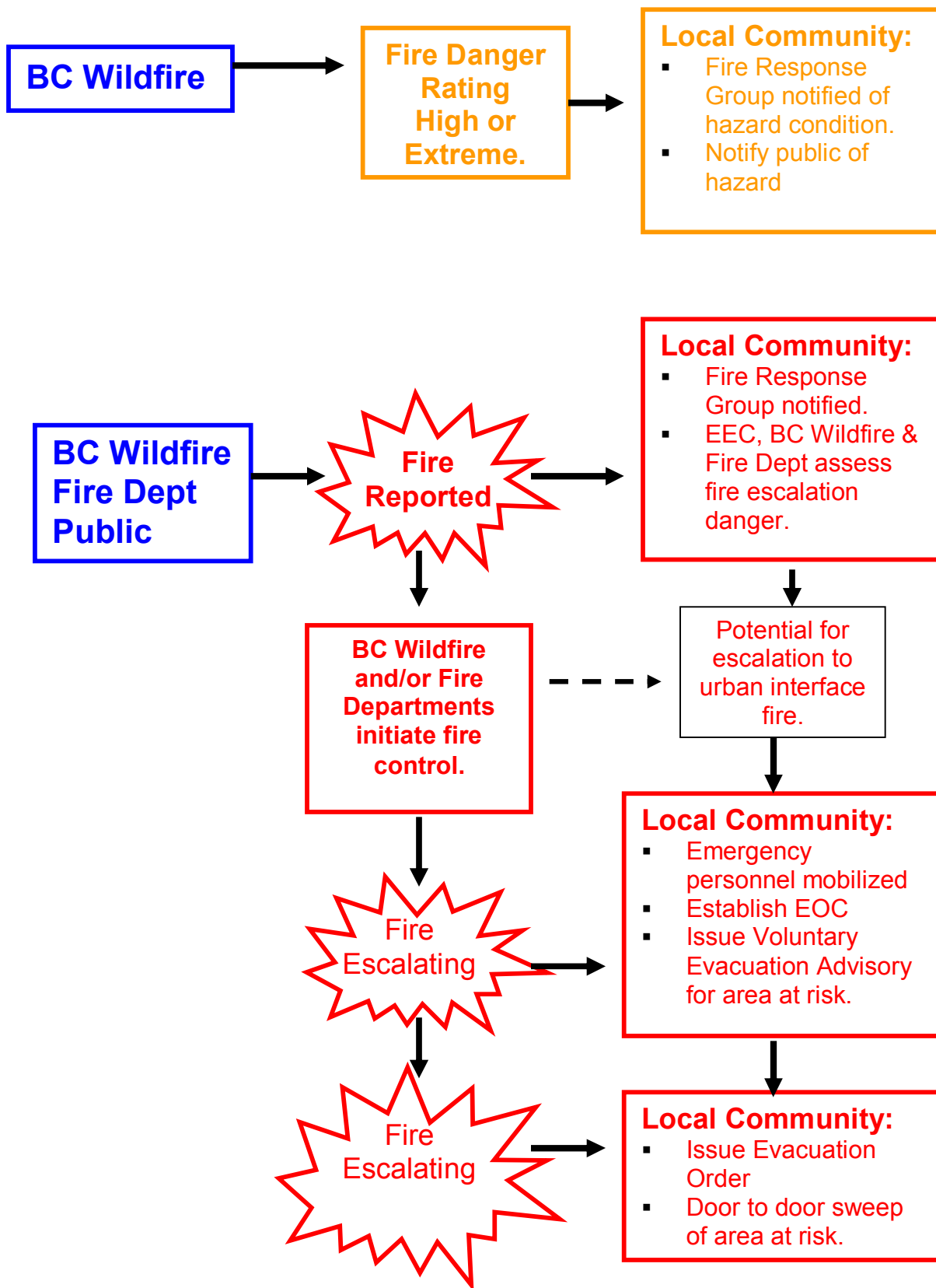Emergency Response Operations – Fire Hall
   - BC Wildfire Service

Fire Reported:
All of above, plus RCMP, 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

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┌──────────────┐        ┌──────────────┐        ┌─────────────────────────────┐
│              │        │ Fire Danger  │        │ Local Community:            │
│ BC Wildfire  │──────▶ │   Rating     │──────▶ │  ▪ Fire Response            │
│              │        │  High or     │        │    Group notified of        │
└──────────────┘        │  Extreme.    │        │    hazard condition.        │
                        └──────────────┘        │  ▪ Notify public of         │
                                                │    hazard                   │
                                                └─────────────────────────────┘
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┌──────────────┐                                ┌─────────────────────────────┐
│ BC Wildfire  │        ╱╲ ╱╲ ╱╲                │ Local Community:            │
│ Fire Dept    │        │ Fire     │            │  ▪ Fire Response            │
│ Public       │──────▶ │ Reported │ ─────────▶ │    Group notified.          │
│              │        ╲╱ ╲╱ ╲╱                │  ▪ EEC, BC Wildfire &       │
└──────────────┘           │                    │    Fire Dept assess         │
                           │                    │    fire escalation          │
                           ▼                    │    danger.                  │
                  ┌─────────────────┐           └─────────────────────────────┘
                  │ BC Wildfire     │                        │
                  │ and/or Fire     │           ┌─────────────────────────────┐
                  │ Departments     │ ─ ─ ─ ─▶  │ Potential for               │
                  │ initiate fire   │           │ escalation to               │
                  │ control.        │           │ urban interface             │
                  └─────────────────┘           │ fire.                       │
                           │                    └─────────────────────────────┘
                           ▼                                 │
                  ╱╲ ╱╲ ╱╲                      ┌─────────────────────────────┐
                  │ Fire      │                 │ Local Community:            │
                  │ Escalating│ ──────────────▶ │  ▪ Emergency                │
                  ╲╱ ╲╱ ╲╱                      │    personnel mobilized      │
                     │                          │  ▪ Establish EOC            │
                     ▼                          │  ▪ Issue Voluntary          │
                  ╱╲ ╱╲ ╱╲                      │    Evacuation Advisory      │
                  │ Fire      │                 │    for area at risk.        │
                  │ Escalating│                 └─────────────────────────────┘
                  ╲╱ ╲╱ ╲╱                                   │
                     │                          ┌─────────────────────────────┐
                     └────────────────────────▶ │ Local Community:            │
                                                │  ▪ Issue Evacuation         │
                                                │    Order                    │
                                                │  ▪ Door to door sweep       │
                                                │    of area at risk.         │
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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.
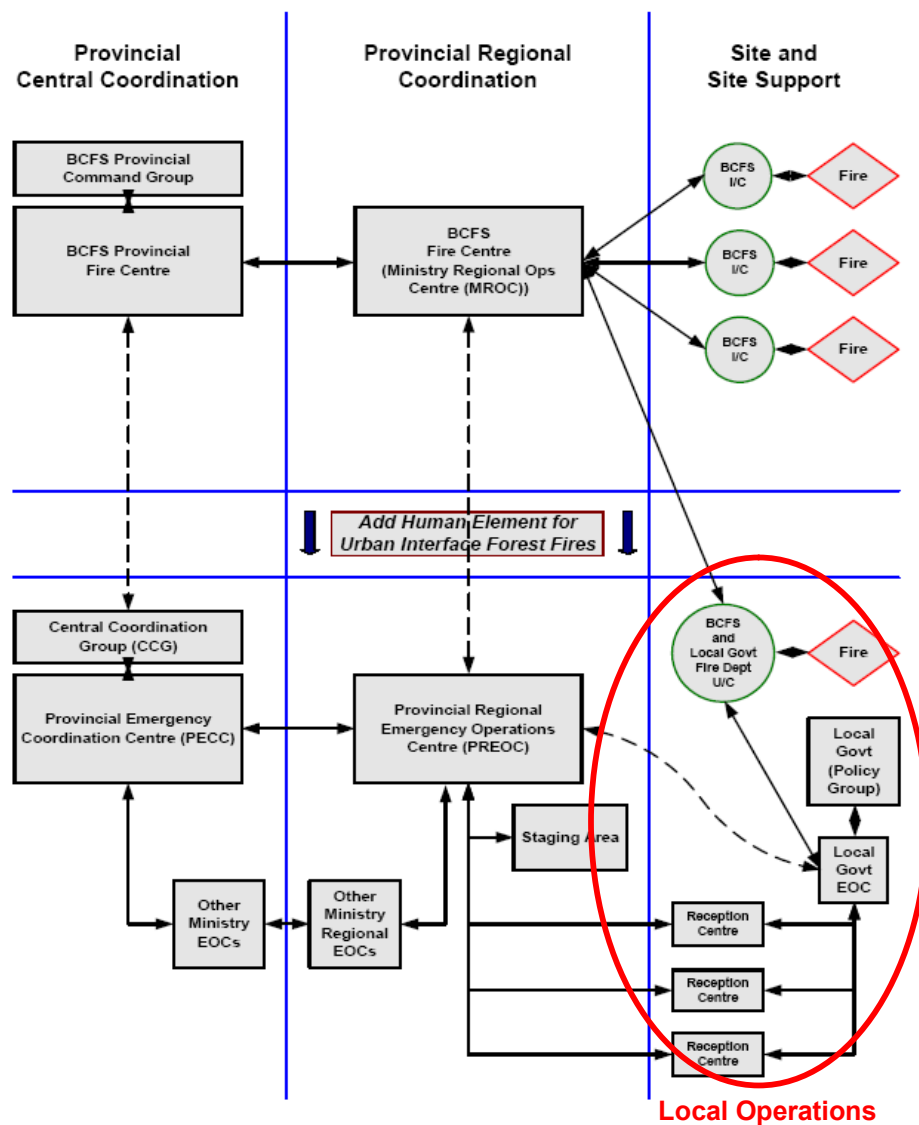
Figure 1 - Provincial Emergency Response Structure for Wild-Land/Urban Interface Fires

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**	**Deputy EC**	**Comm Officer**
BC Wildfire	**RCMP**	**Ambulance**	
Fire Dept			

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 Ocean Falls Community Wildfire Protection Plans (2006) for further information on fuel hazard ratings around the community.

3 Fire Response Activation Levels

The Ocean Falls Interface Fire Emergency Plan may be activated by the EEC or local Emergency Coordinator 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 Ocean Falls 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 the vicinity of the 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. Power lines may be down for extended periods, thereby invoking the Power Outage Emergency Plan.

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 Ocean Falls community 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*

Located close to the ocean, 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
Ocean Falls Town Site	• Interface fire will likely occur north, west or south of town site, so people should head to harbour area and wait for instructions and possible marine evacuation. • Fire south, north or east, head to Marten valley float plane ramp area • Last option, evacuate up to Link Lake.
Ocean Falls Upper Dam site Link Lake	• Interface fire will likely occur north or east of this area, so people should head to harbour area and wait for instructions and possible marine evacuation. • If necessary, evacuate up towards Martin Valley keeping near the

	ocean for possible marine evacuation.
Martin Valley	• If fire north, south or west of settlement, evacuate to Ocean Falls townsite for possible marine evacuation. • If fire to north or east of settlement, evaluate highway passage safety and potentially hold near airplane ramp for potential marine rescue. • In extreme cases evacuation may be required to go south along power line access road towards Roscoe Bay but this option must be carefully assessed to avoid getting cut off and stranded. Road to Roscoe Bay may be overgrown.

4.1.1 Establishment of Road Blocks

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

RCMP, Fire crews or volunteers to staff road blocks.

4.1.2 Special Evacuation Requirements

For the most part, people living in Ocean Falls are of independent character and would not need special evacuation service. However, there may be a few invalid, house-bound persons in the community that may require some assistance.

There are no livestock in Ocean Falls, only pets and the owners are responsible to manage their evacuation and care.

During the tourist season, people unfamiliar with Ocean Falls may need some assistance.

4.2 *Fire Emergency – Prolonged Response*

A prolonged fire emergency will likely entail an expanding evacuation program as fire moves around Cousins Inlet. This will mean that people will have to evacuate away from the area to Bella Bella or Bella Coola and beyond. A ferry may be required to move people out by marine route to Port Hardy.

5 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.

6 Appendices

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

2016
See CCRD EMP Annex D – EMBC Supporting Emergency Manuals