

WILDFIRE SAFETY FOR YOUR BUSINESS

High temperatures across much of western Canada have created drought-like conditions and put many communities at high risk for wildfires. With the frequency and severity of wildfires across Canada increasing this spring due to hot and dry conditions, many regions remain at high risk for new fires to develop. As businesses continue to manage operations, it is important to take these steps to help mitigate the potential impacts of a wildfire.

Preparation Tips

- Develop a business continuity plan to mitigate the impact of a wildfire.
- Review your Emergency Response Plan to make sure it is up-to-date.
- Ensure electronic information and records are backed up and stored at a safe off-site location.
- Check your provincial government's website for updates on current wildfires.
- Keep an adequate number of appropriate fire extinguishers in strategic locations - near entrances/exits and waste collection areas.
- Have tools, rakes, axes, and shovels, available to help control small fires while waiting for emergency personnel to arrive.
- Provide your local fire department with information regarding your building including layout, emergency response plan and alarm/fire protection systems.
- Keep all entrances and exits clear of obstructions and ensure they're clearly marked.
- Hold regularly scheduled fire drills with staff.

Invest in Fire Mitigation

- Use exterior building surfaces that are either non-combustible or considered resistant to ignition by embers.
- Create a fire-resistant zone free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your building.
- Keep grass mowed short and cut back any brush or shrubs.
- Cover building vents with tight-fitting, non-combustible wire mesh.
- Limit yard storage. Remove flammable items from the property or move them at least 30 feet away from the building.
- Ensure your interior automatic sprinkler system has an adequate and reliable water supply.

During a Wildfire

- Evacuation orders will often be swift and accurate for affected areas. Be prepared to leave immediately.
- If you are trapped, call 911 and provide your location. Turn on all lights to help signal your location to rescue services.
- Shut down building air intakes and turn off unnecessary utilities, if possible.

Need to Make a Claim? We're here for you.

Our dedicated teams are ready to assist you. If you have a question about your policy or need to submit a claim, please contact us at info@westerncoast.ca or toll-free at 1-888-517-7171 during regular business hours.

Emergency Claims Service is also available to provide support for after-hours emergency situations. Our on-call claims team can be reached by calling 1-888-517-7171.