

Protecting Our Forests from Wildfire

Timberland Manager for **TimberWest** | **ISLAND**
TIMBERLANDS

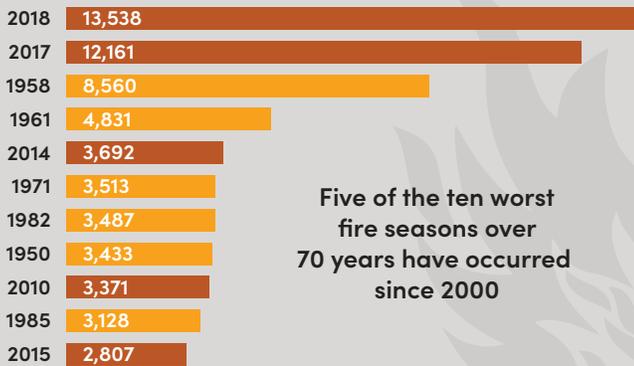
The forests of Vancouver Island are where we live, work and play. Every summer, the risk of wildfire impacts our communities and our operations – and with climate change, that risk is becoming more severe and occurring more often.

KEEPING AN EYE ON THE WEATHER – REMOTELY

Weather – including temperature, relative humidity, precipitation and wind speed – has a significant impact on if fires start, how fast they spread and how difficult they are to contain. While the BC Wildfire Service monitors fire danger ratings across the province, Mosaic Forest Management has installed remote, state-of-the-art weather stations across our operations and we do our own monitoring and forecasting of fire risk.

TOP 10 FIRE SEASONS IN B.C. SINCE 1950

Chart shows number of square kilometres burned in wildfires each season. Does not include false alarms, nuisance fires or training fires.



Five of the ten worst
fire seasons over
70 years have occurred
since 2000

Adapted from CBC News, 2018.

Mosaic Forest Management is the timberland manager for TimberWest and Island Timberlands, and this includes our private lands across Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii, as well as our tenures on public lands.

We undertake extensive measures to reduce the risk of wildfire, and we also have extensive plans and response procedures that we activate when fires occur. But we need your help – without the support and vigilance of the public, our wildfire mitigation efforts cannot succeed. Please read on to discover how we manage for fire risk, what we do when a fire occurs and how you can help.



Weather stations across our forest lands collect and transmit real-time fire weather data that guides our forest management decision making.

REDUCING RISK OF HUMAN-CAUSED FIRE

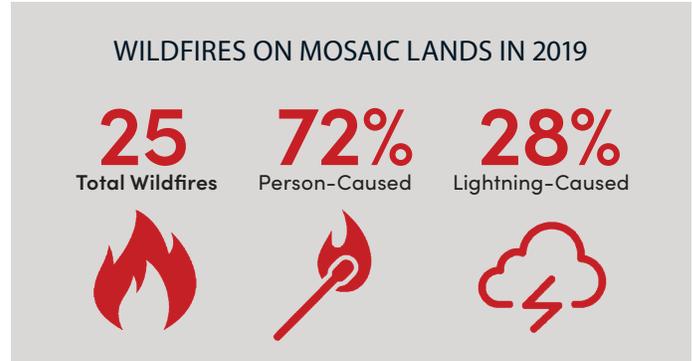
When fire risk gets too high, we restrict access to our forestlands – while Mosaic-maintained public campsites may remain open, sometimes with campfire bans in place, we close access to the backcountry when fire risk is high. While we know this decision is unpopular with some, in BC every year, the majority of wildfires are caused by people inadvertently. Restricting access when fire risk is high is one of our fundamental due diligence steps to protect our forestland assets, the safety of our neighbours and the values our communities rely on, particularly the health of drinking watersheds on our land. When fire risk is high, we also modify our operations – altering work schedules to run equipment at night when fire risk is lower, or ceasing operations altogether when necessary.

INTERFACE FIRES – REDUCING RISKS TO PEOPLE AND HOMES

One of the key elements of reducing the risk to homes and communities from catastrophic wildfire in interface areas is managing the amount of potentially combustible material in the forest, known as fuel load. Active management of forests reduces fuel loads, and while in interior regions of the province, managers often use prescribed burns to reduce fuel loads and associated fire risk, that management technique is rarely appropriate for coastal forests. On our lands, one of the means we utilize to reduce fuel loads is through firewood permits. Every year, commercial and personal firewood permits remove significant amounts of woody debris from our forest areas. We also do localized pile burns in the fall when fire risk is low and winter rains lie ahead.

RAPID RESPONSE

The most critical element in controlling a wildfire once it has ignited is rapid response, and getting resources and water on the fire before it spreads. British Columbia has one of the most effective forest fire response teams in the world in the BC Wildfire Service – but, in severe fire years, resources can be limited.



As private landowners, we have invested in our own wildfire management capability together with our contractors to ensure our forests and their resources are protected. In addition to formal coordination with the Provincial Wildfire Response program, this includes:

- » Daily aerial and ground-based surveillance,
- » Helicopter-based rapid attack,
- » 100 all-terrain fire trucks deployed around our lands,
- » Well stocked depots with pumps and hoses located across our lands, and
- » Trained crews in initial attack and forest fire fighting, serving as a critical first line of defence.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » Respect fire bans and forest closures
- » Report wildfires immediately
- » Educate yourself on being Fire Smart and how to protect your family and your property from wildfire – www.firesmartbc.ca
- » Spread the word – let your friends and family know what to do if they see a forest fire, and how to learn about forest fire prevention

