

**INAC EMD Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Situation Report for
Sunday, May 08, 2016
(New information has been **bolded**)**

The purpose of this situation report is to provide an update on wildland fires that affect the health and safety and/or business continuity of First Nations on reserves. **Except where otherwise stated, all information in this report was provided by INAC Regional Offices.**

To watch over the weekend:

- **Fort McMurray First Nation evacuation and potential impact on infrastructure**

2016 Wildland Fire Season:

The purpose of this situation report is to provide an update on wildland fires that affect the health and safety and/or business continuity of First Nations on reserves.

This report contains:

- List of First Nations Impacted by Wildland Fires
- 2016 Wildland Fire Season – Preliminary Wildland Fire Risk Assessment
- Attached are maps indicating the First Nations currently affected as well as provincial and national active fire maps.

First Nations Impacted by Wildland Fire (INAC Regional Offices are monitoring)		
AB First Nations	Description	Evacuees
Alberta General Assessment	<p>As of 17:00 EDT on 06 May, the entire municipality of Fort McMurray remains under an evacuation order, including the area of McDonald Island Park and the surrounding communities. Approximately 88,000 persons have been evacuated from the area. Firefighting efforts continue; however, the fire is expected to worsen due to heat, wind, and low humidity as a result of the ongoing drought.</p> <p>As of 06 May, close to 1,600 homes have been destroyed. Telecommunications in the area have been severely impacted and continue to be reported as intermittent. Fort McMurray International Airport has been closed to commercial air traffic. Beginning on 05 May, a total of 25,000 evacuees began to be transported to host communities in the south of the province by land and air. Efforts to relocate the evacuees will continue over the next 72 hours and are expected to be completed by 09 May.</p>	
Federal Resources:	<p>PHAC is coordinating the delivery of up to 50,000 cots and blankets</p> <p>DND: The provision of air assets will be used to assist with the evacuation of persons in distress and individuals in the affected areas, delivery of essential aid to affected areas, and transport of essential firefighting equipment and personnel to, from, and within the affected area.</p> <p>Griffon helicopters have conducted one search and rescue mission along with reconnaissance tasks. A Hercules aircraft has transported evacuees from a camp North of Fort McMurray to Edmonton. Griffon helicopters continue reconnaissance and are standing by for possible evacuation tasks.</p> <p>Communications: Numerous efforts are being made by the RCMP, DND, ISED and SSC to restore communications and move additional communications assets into the area. The overload on telecommunications is easing; however, communications will remain intermittent in the near future</p>	

<p>Fort McMurray First Nation (468)</p>	<p>6MAY2016: Evacuated Infrastructure: No losses have been reported on Reserve yet, however, the fire is moving in the direction of the First Nation. It is unknown if there are any losses of off-reserve corporate infrastructure or of members' personal property in the city of Fort McMurray Evacuations: On May 4, 2016, at 9:50 p.m., the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo ordered a mandatory evacuation for Anzac, Gregoire Lake Estates, and Fort McMurray First Nation, just hours after the Fort McMurray First Nation leadership's decision to undertake a voluntary evacuation. The order remains in effect May 6, 12:30 p.m. Elders with respiratory illness (15 people) had been previously evacuated to Edmonton on the night of May 3. As at May 5, 8:32 p.m. wildfire representatives were somewhat confident that the fire on the north side of Gregoire Lake could be held before reaching the Nation's reserve, Gregoire Lake 176 which is located on the south side of the lake. However, changes in wind conditions would likely affect the situation. Other Issues: The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has issued a Boil Water Advisory notice that does impact the Nation as it has integrated water services with Fort McMurray. The Nation has been notified through the Health Director. The city is running out of water to fight fire and they will likely be releasing untreated water into the distribution system. We have been notified that no bottled water or large water jugs are available at this time. However, the CEO of Christina River Enterprise has ordered food and water from Bonnyville for distribution to members/evacuees. <i>*Evacuee numbers are based on registered on reserve population. Does not include non-registered or registered on another reserve population.</i></p>	<p>276*</p>
<p>Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (463)</p>	<p>6MAY2016: Food Supply Issues / Hosting Evacuees / Off-Reserve Evacuees Infrastructure: There have been no losses reported on Reserve as the First Nation is to the north of the wildfire and is not threatened. It is unknown if there has been any loss of ACFN corporate infrastructure located in Fort McMurray. Individual members have lost property in Fort McMurray. Other issues: The Northern Store, which provides the community with groceries and sundries, is working with suppliers to use alternate northern routes to ensure deliveries are resumed. The Chief had indicated a particular concern about food supply given the potential population increase of up to 190 members and evacuees. Evacuations: ACFN, Mikisew and Metis undertook a joint effort to bring community members to Fort Chipewyan from Ft McKay in 35 boats. Successful airlift operations of 60 Mikisew/ACFN evacuees resulted in minimal requirements to evacuate members (4 Mikisew/ACFN evacuees) by boat; however, abandoned belongings are being returned by the flotilla. 200 Mikisew/ACFN evacuees remain at Fort McKay First Nation. 150 evacuees from Mikisew/ACFN are being accommodated in Edmonton and AEMA is responsible for responding to requests for supplies.</p>	<p>200 FN evacuees that had been residing in Fort McMurray</p>

<p>Mikisew Cree First Nation (461)</p>	<p>6MAY2016: Food Supply Issues / Hosting Evacuees / Off-Reserve Evacuees Chief Courtereille, in his capacity as Grand Chief of Treaty 8, visited AEMA's Provincial Operations Centre (POC) and met with Wildfire representatives, DND, and INAC. Infrastructure: There have been no losses reported on Reserve. No losses have been reported on Reserve. However the First Nation is reported to have lost significant corporate infrastructure in Fort McMurray including a Super 8 and a gas station. It is possible that the Burger King was also lost. At least a dozen houses owned by Band Members have been reported lost. Other issues: The Northern Store, which provides the community with groceries and sundries, is working with suppliers to use alternate northern routes to ensure deliveries are resumed. Evacuations: Incoming: ACFN, Mikisew and Metis undertook a joint effort to bring community members to Fort Chipewyan from Ft McKay in 35 boats. Successful airlift operations of 60 Mikisew/ACFN evacuees resulted in minimal requirements to evacuate members (4 Mikisew/ACFN evacuees) by boat; however, abandoned belongings are being returned by the flotilla. 200 Mikisew/ACFN evacuees remain at Fort McKay First Nation. 150 evacuees from Mikisew/ACFN are being accommodated in Edmonton and AEMA is responsible for responding to requests for supplies.</p>	<p>Unknown number of FN evacuees that had been residing off-reserve</p>
<p>Little Red River Cree Nation (447)</p>	<p>On 6MAY2016: Wildland Fire – BEING HELD HWF-051-2016 on reserve wildfire is being held at Little Red River Cree Nation (Fox Lake). This wildfire has burned 0.50 hectares. Additionally, HWF-053-2016 on reserve wildfire at Little Red River Cree Nation (Fox Lake) is under control and has burned 0.10 hectares.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Fort McKay (467)</p>	<p>Partial Evacuation- On 8MAY2016, the Alberta Provincial Operations Centre reported that smoke plume modelling predicted that Fort McKay First Nation was going to be effected by smoke from 22:00-03:00 MDT overnight (7MAY2016 to 8MAY2016). Because of that modelling, the province did not recommend an evacuation. However, approximately 300 people evacuated the community. Approximately 120 people stayed. Those who did evacuate evacuated to Edmonton and were put in Northlands evacuation centre. The Chief and CAO advised those who remained in the community of the potential liability. However, as of this morning, 8MAY2016, there is picture confirmation of clear skies in the community. There are no further plans to evacuate. 6MAY2016: Food Supply Issues / Medical Services Issues / Hosting Evacuees Infrastructure: No losses were reported on Reserve. Fort McKay First Nation is to the north of Fort McMurray and out of the current path of the wildfire. It is unknown if there are any losses of off-reserve corporate infrastructure or of members' personal property. Fort McKay First Nation is excluded from the Regional</p>	<p>Approximately 300</p>

	<p>Municipality of Wood Buffalo's boil water advisory.</p> <p>Evacuations: Incoming: Designated as a Fort McKay First Nation welcomed evacuees on the night of May 3. They have taken in about 300 evacuees, possibly more as a lot of community members have taken families into their personal homes as well. While not considered to be in immediate danger, nor under an evacuation order, some band members have evacuated voluntarily. Registered as one of the 10 reception centres, the Nation expended substantial funds while in operation as a centre for evacuees.</p> <p>The Nation has begun the process of determining the priority list for the potential transfer of high risk community members due to having no access to a hospital or medication nearby, for example dialysis treatment and depletion of medication. The action would proceed Thursday May 5 or Friday May 6.</p> <p>On May 5, Alberta's Human Services received a request for food as the Nation was running low on resources for the evacuees. Working with DND, Human Services began coordinating the delivery of three pallets of food which should arrive in Albian Sands on the afternoon of May 6.</p> <p>The Nation will be submitting a trust funds request (estimated at \$2.5M) in order to cover costs due to the provision of supplies, food, and gas to the evacuees.</p>	
Chipewyan Prairie First Nation	<p>6MAY2016: Food Supply Issues / Hosting Evacuees</p> <p>Infrastructure: There have been no losses reported on Reserve. Chipewyan Prairie First Nation is not threatened by this fire.</p> <p>Evacuations Incoming: CPFN began accepting evacuees at 8 PM on May 3. They have started putting people in the Multiplex hall. The work camp in their commercial park (Moose Haven Lodge) has also accepted approximately 600 evacuees, well over what they described as their work camp's capacity of 200. They will continue to update with numbers as they get them.</p> <p>Other Issues: Food and water is needed for evacuations in both evacuee locations. Medical services assistance is also required – they can only perform basic assessments. They cannot transport patients or give medication or treatment. CPFN on reserve gas station and the gas station in the commercial park still have fuel. On the night of May 3, the gas stations sent out trucks with fuel tanks to rescue people who were stranded.</p>	0
Dene Tha'First Nation	<p>6MAY2016: On notice for possible evacuation</p> <p>While not yet directly affected, the Nation is in close proximity to a Mackenzie County (High Level, Alberta) wildfire that has resulted in mandatory evacuations of country residents that live east of the Bushe Reserve.</p> <p>The Nation, who remains on notice, has set up a communication centre at the Bushe River nation and prepared a staging area in case of an evacuation order.</p>	0
SawridgeBand	<p>6MAY2016: no impact</p> <p>The Sawridge First Nation does not have any assets in Fort McMurray. Some companies associated with the First Nation do have assets there but impact is unknown.</p>	0

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta	6MAY2016: Setting up donation centre T8FNA is setting up an Edmonton donation centre for evacuees from the Fort McMurray area. Donations being collected include: o cash and gift cards o toiletries (tooth paste, tooth brushes, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, brush/comb, body wash/soap, bath towel/hand towel, feminine products, Depends (small, medium and large), diapers, pull ups - 4T, baby wipes) o clothing (socks; men's, women's and children's underwear) o cases of bottled water, milk (formula) and medication.	0
Heart Lake First Nation	6MAY2016: Hosting Evacuees Evacuations: Incoming: Heart Lake First Nation welcomed evacuees last night but total numbers received is unknown	0
Beaver Lake First Nation	6MAY2016: Hosting Evacuees Evacuations: Incoming: Beaver Lake First Nation has started welcoming evacuees but total numbers received is unknown TCCFS (West) Director has provided support by providing basic supplies (e.g., food/water) for these evacuees. Additionally, the CFS Director has offered ATC CFS staff the use of office space at the Beaver Lake First Nation so they can continue to work.	0
Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation	6MAY2016: Two Homes Destroyed While the evacuation order has now been lifted, a serious wildfire burning on the Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation affected properties in Lac Ste. Anne County, resulted in the evacuation of the Nation and the community of Glenevis. A spokeswoman for the First Nation said two homes have been destroyed and that the fire had approached the north end of the First Nation community.	0
Metis Office (Fort McMurray)	According to media, McMurray Metis Office (located in Fort McMurray) was reported to be in flames and likely to collapse. The INAC AB Regional office has been in touch with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to ensure that concerns and needs of affected Métis are being addressed. MNA is going to be providing information on what they think is needed to support their affected members. Officials with Alberta's Indigenous Affairs ministry have asked us to send that information on to them so they can ensure it becomes part of the overall support that they are providing. We will also make sure they have the contact info for key people within MNA for ongoing liaison.	unknown
BC First Nations	Description	Evacuees
BC General Assessment	As of 7MAY2016 the BC Wildfire Service is reporting 220 wildfires have burnt 29,006 with previous years not listed. As of 7MAY2016 there are 7 active fires of note.	
Doig River First Nation (548)	Evacuation Alert – On 7MAY2016, the BC regional office reported that Doig River First Nation is no longer on Evacuation Alert. On 2MAY2016, the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) expanded their evacuation alert zone due to wildfire G80107 (Doig River). The alert now includes the Doig River First Nation who has issued their own evacuation alert within the community. The wildfire is approximately 2 km North of Doig River First Nation and is estimated at 300 ha in size. The First Nation's evacuation alert covers 54 homes in the	0

	community. The First Nation participated on coordination calls and indicated that their community hall is open and available for use by the fire crews.	
Blueberry River First Nation (547)	Evacuation Order – On 6MAY2016, INAC BC Region was informed by EMBC that the Blueberry River First Nation is under an evacuation order for the whole community. The evacuation order results from the community being located within the identified State of Local Emergency zone declared by the Peace River Regional District. The Beaton Airport Road Wildfire (G80046) affecting Blueberry River First Nation is now estimated at 10,000 ha in size. The First Nation is working to submit the required evacuation paperwork to EMBC. The evacuated members are evacuating to North Peace arena in Fort St. John. <i>*Evacuee numbers are based on registered on reserve population. Does not include non-registered or registered on another reserve population.</i>	192*
SK First Nations	No First Nations Currently Impacted	
SK General Assessment	Environment Canada (EC) continues to monitor air quality from the Fort Mac area; because of the decrease in temperatures from a system moving from Alberta and through Saskatchewan, the Smoke plume that is usually aloft at the time of day this report was initially received and had dropped into Cold Lake and area; northern officials posted an air quality notice on their websites and Facebook; Provincial officials are monitoring situation and working with communities that may be affected by smoke. As of 7MAY2016, the SK Wildfire Management Branch is reporting 7 active fires, none of which are not contained and 118 wildfires to date.	
MB First Nations	Description	
MB General Assessment	As of 7MAY2016, the Manitoba Government is reporting 48 fires to date and 16,953 hectares burned. There are currently 23 fires burning and one fire has been labelled as out of control.	
Cross Lake Band of Indians (276)	According to the MB Regional Office, there is a fire nearby the community. Cross Lake fire fighters are working on the situation. Community members can smell smoke in the air, but no smokiness in the air yet. No patients with smoke related issues yet.	0
Pine Creek First Nation (282)	On 6MAY2016, the MB regional office reported that Pine Creek First Nation has been impacted by a forest fire. There are two fire trucks fighting a large fire, and the water bomber has been called. One house is being protected and the fire is reportedly spreading. Updates will be provided as information becomes available	0
ON First Nations	No First Nations Currently Impacted	
ON General Assessment	As of 7MAY2016, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is reporting that there have been 73 fires to date and 363 hectares burned. The ten year average for the same period is 105 fires and 288 hectares burned.	

2016 Wildland Fire Season – GOC Preliminary Wildland Fire Risk Assessment:

According to the GOC, 2016 will be an above-average fire season in Western Canada, notably along the southern edge of the boreal forests from Manitoba through to Alberta, and average in Eastern Canada. Abnormally dry and warm weather in May is expected to drive above normal fire conditions in western and northern Ontario. As El Niño conditions are forecasted to subside in June, seasonal fire danger levels are expected to return to seasonal averages, but will remain elevated in the boreal forests due to dry conditions.

At present, Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan are experiencing an early start to their wildland fire seasons due to a warm spring, which is a product of continued, albeit weakening, El Niño conditions (warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean). Warmer temperatures across the West are compounded by dry conditions in central and northern BC and northern Alberta, and well-below average snow pack (60 – 85 percent) in the forests of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Province / Territory	Current NRCan Fire Danger Rating (see attached map)	GOC Hazard Assessment (April - May)	GOC Confidence Rating
AB	HIGH TO LOW in the north western area, VERY HIGH to EXTREME across the rest of the province.	High	Very High – High
BC	HIGH to VERY HIGH in the eastern area, LOW to MEDIUM in western and central areas.	High	High
SK	MEDIUM to HIGH in the northern area, EXTREME in the rest of the province	High	Moderate
MB	EXTREME in the south western area, MEDIUM to LOW in the rest of the province.	Medium – High	Moderate
ON	HIGH to LOW across the province.	Medium	Moderate
All Other Provinces	LOW to NIL.	Low to Medium	Moderate to Very High