



Wildfire Act & Regulation Within BC

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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On April 21, 2004 BC Legislature gave final approval to the Wildfire Act; the passing of this Regulation on March 31, 2005 has brought this Act into full force. Companies conducting work within the BC region are affected by this Legislation and should become familiar with the Act and Regulation in order to achieve due diligence.

The 'new' Wildfire Act introduces several new requirements for industrial activities on forest and grass lands and applies to many other industrial sectors beyond the forest industry.

The Regulation no longer details the type, number and specification of tools, pumps and other firefighting equipment to be used; but rather states that sufficient firefighting tools are a requirement. Also stated is the requirement to have an adequate fire suppression system (a system for suppressing fire by delivering water, a suppressant or a surfactant) on hand where there is a risk of a fire starting and spreading.

More high risk activities have also been defined in this Regulation - including preparation of explosives, using fire or spark producing tools (including cutting tools), mechanical land clearing and rock drilling.

Companies carrying out industrial activities within 300m of forest or grass land are required to ensure that sufficient fire-fighting tools are available if there is a fire risk, regardless of the time of year. This is a significant change and requires more due diligence on the part of the companies to ensure that tools are available during periods previously not considered.

Wildfire Act: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/wildfire/wildfireact/wildfire.htm>

Wildfire Regulation: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/wildfire/wildfirereg/wildfirereg.htm>

Reference: Geophysical Industry Guidance document