

# Wildfire Season on Site

OVER ►

The NL OHS Regulations require employers to consider where they may have to rescue or evacuate workers. This includes informing workers about escape routes, fire prevention and evacuation procedures, especially when working in remote or isolated areas.



Did you know? Forest Fire Season is dependent on where you are situated in the province. The island's season is from April 24 – September 30 while Labrador is May 15 – September 30.

## Fire Prevention Considerations:

- » Have an emergency response plan (ERP) that includes fire potential; this must be reviewed including drill(s), at least annually, to determine effectiveness.
- » Know the location of your nearest fire department and response time. The more remote your work area, the more time needed to respond.
- » Recognize and control hazards in your work area. Hot work, welding, grinding, etc. are all examples of ignition sources. If you see an unsafe condition, report it to your supervisor.
- » Monitor conditions in your area. The NL Active Wildfire Dashboard shows all fire, location, status and size!



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# Wildfire Season On Site: Be Safe, Be Ready

## Practice Good Fire Safety:

Identify equipment and maintain an inventory such as: fire extinguishers, water tanks, pumps, hoses, portable water, etc. and locations.

You should also consult with local fire departments and ask them to have a walkthrough of your site and determine potential challenges in accessing the site or other considerations which may impact your ERP (Emergency Response Plan).

## Determine Potential Fire Hazards OnSite:

- Vehicles - can cause ignitions when dry forest conditions are present due to hot exhaust can result in a fire hazard. Parking vehicles, heavy equipment, trucks, ATV's on gravel, pavement or bare mineral soil reduces the potential of fire. Follow preventative maintenance schedules.
- Powerlines - work activities i.e: equipment operation or vegetation management can result in incidents with powerline conductors if not properly controlled. Anything can act as a conductor under the right conditions, and it is known that this can result in wildfire ignition. Contact the owner of the utility to determine the appropriate actions to take when working in proximity.
- Site conditions - Identify and control areas where personnel may become trapped by approaching fire. Consider vegetation management as it varies in flammability - some is more resistant while others are less resistant to burning. Maintain quick and safe access from the work site.
- Storage Areas - maintain good housekeeping ex: free of excess clutter, store combustible material away from structures, maintain distance between storage areas, consider how fuel is stored etc.
- Smoking - have designated areas. Discarded cigarettes are a likely ignition source. Smoking is not to be permitted outside of designated areas and personnel should have an appropriate location to safely discard used cigarettes.

## If Your Site Is At Risk Of Wildfire:

- Develop an emergency plan for fire and perform regular drills.
- Develop methods of notifying other employees.
- Keep away from smoke, heat, and gasses to increase available escape time.
- Remember to call the fire department (911).
- Be aware and check evacuation orders and alerts: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/alerts/>
- If under an evacuation order, everyone must be aware and ready to leave with very little notice - have supplies and transportation readily available for evacuation.