



FIRESTORM 2003

Provincial Review

The Honourable Gary Filmon P.C., O.M.

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- **Terms of Reference**

- Was British Columbia prepared?
- How well did emergency systems deal with the situation?
- What could be done better in the future?
- What action should be taken?

- **Timeline**

- Early October 2003 to mid February 2004

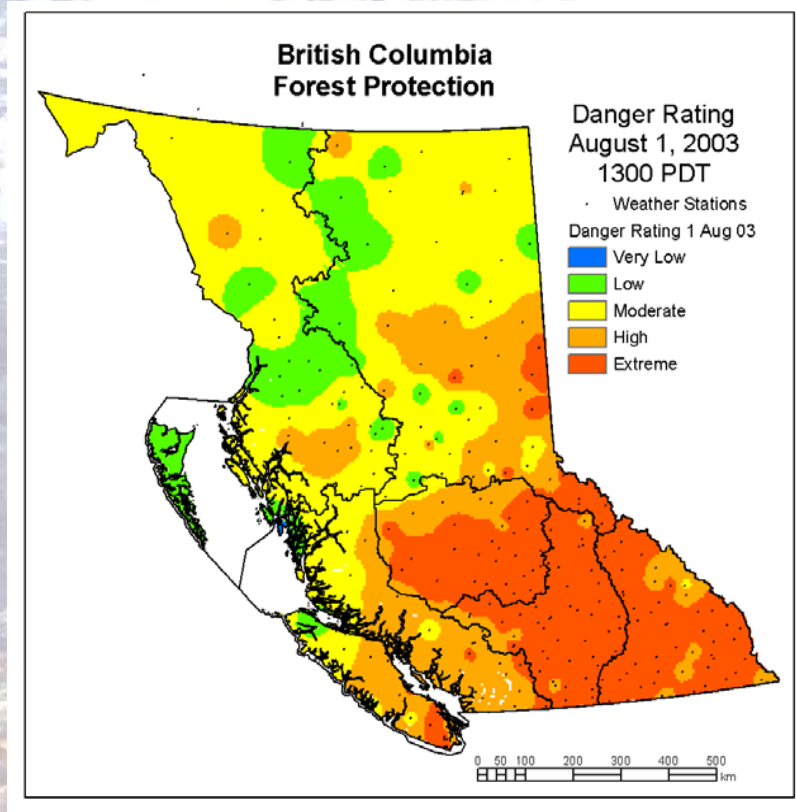
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- **Process**
 - 9 days of Public Meetings
 - 9 days of Stakeholder Meetings
 - 3 days with MoF, PEP, OFC
 - Consultations with First Nations
 - 400+ submissions
 - Transcripts on-line

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- **Context**

- Worst drought in 100 years
- Record high temps
- Strong gusty winds
- Significant fuel loads
- 2500 wildfires
- Predicted to continue hot and dry

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The Issues

- **Forest Management**
- **Emergency Management**
- **Command and Control**
- **Communications**
- **Evacuations**
- **Resources**
- **Financial Accountability**
- **Post Emergency Recovery**

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- **Forest Management**
 - **Strategic Approach to Fuel Management**
 - **Use Prescribed Burning**
 - **Allow Selective Harvesting in Parks**
 - **New Approaches in Marginal Tree Stands**

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- **Emergency Management**
 - **Make Local Emergency Plans Mandatory**
 - **Require Fire-Proofing**
 - **Maximize Firefighting Expertise**

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- **Command And Control**
 - **Standardize the Use of BCERMS and ICS**
 - **Single Province Wide Focus for Training**
 - **Practice, Practice, Practice**

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- **Communications**
 - **Develop a Crisis Communications Strategy**
 - **Establish a Communications SWAT Team**
 - **Move Towards Compatible Technology**
 - **Public Education**

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- **Evacuation**
 - **Allow More Local Decision Making**
 - **Increase Understanding of the Evacuation Process**
 - **Simplify Access to Post Evacuation Assistance**

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- **Resources**
 - **Implement Firefighting Databases**
 - **Better Access to Local Firefighting Expertise**
 - **Increase Type 1 Unit Crews to 27**
 - **Local Governments Should Pay for Volunteer Firefighter Training**

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- **Financial Accountability**
 - Random Post Event Value for Money Audits
- **Post Emergency Recovery**
 - Prepare Ahead of Time
 - Deal with Watershed Restoration
 - Engage Federal Government in Funding Fire Prevention

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- **Conclusion**
 - **The Time to Prepare is Now**
 - **The Responsibility is Shared Between All Levels of Government as well as Private Individuals**
 - **An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure**