

FIRE SEASON 2004

Preparations

May 31, 2004



Summer 2003 Worst Fire Season In B.C. History

- 45,000 residents were evacuated and 334 homes were lost
- Successes in the midst of disaster
 - ✓ 89% of fires were put out on first attack
 - ✓ 2nd largest evacuation in Canadian history with no civilian loss of life



Recommendations

- **The Filmon Report made 42 recommendations to the B.C. Government**
- **We've acted on all of them**

Action

- ✓ Recruiting and training an additional 100 firefighters for Type 1 crews
- ✓ Total trained forest firefighters now 1,000



Action

- ✓ Added two new Convair 580 air tankers
- ✓ Total tanker fleet now 15



Action

- ✓ Increased prescribed burns in provincial parks



Action

- ✓ **Emergency planning and management tools:**
 - **Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis Tool Kit**
 - **Community Emergency Program Review**
 - **B.C. Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS)**

Action

- ✓ **Mandatory emergency planning**
- ✓ **BCERMS standardization**
- ✓ **Recovery planning**
- ✓ **First Nations**

Going Forward

- **\$3 Million to UBCM to work with local governments**
- **Planning and preparedness begun**

We're Ready

- We can't do it alone
- Safety and prevention is everyone's responsibility
- To report wildfire or smoke:
1-800-663-5555
(*5555 on cellular)

