

# A Canadian Risk Management Partnership Based on Interagency Cooperation

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## **Abstract**

Canadian wildland fire is an escalating risk to people, communities, property, recreation and economic loss within Canada's forest industry. The prominent risk elements are extended fire seasons, increasing severe weather events, insect and disease, as well as the rapidly expanding wildland urban interface in Canada. To meet this challenge, Canadian federal, provincial and territorial wildland fire agencies established the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC Inc.) in 1983 as a cooperative interagency risk management partnership. All ten provinces of Canada, two territories and the federal government comprise the CIFFC Inc. member agencies.

CIFFC Inc. was initially established to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of wildland fire suppression by coordinating the sharing of aircraft, personnel and equipment among the Canadian agencies and between the United States and Canada in a rapid cost effective manner. The numbers of resource exchanges will be detailed, the reasons for the continued rise in the use of resource exchange will be discussed, as well as the logistical and financial benefits to member agencies. Examples of the impact of Canadian agencies working together to set common standards, training, and equipment will be highlighted to explain the efficiencies gained through this interagency partnership.

Today, there is a growing complexity and meteorological uncertainty with regard to wildland fires in Canada. This is coupled with the increasing concern over public/ individual safety and health, and the shift in public attitudes. Currently, CIFFC and its member agencies are in the process of re-evaluating, retooling and redeveloping approaches to wildland fire management in order to further reduce the costs. The shifting dynamic to this interagency risk management approach to wildland fire will be explained within the context of CIFFC Inc. Some examples from 2003 and 2006 will be highlighted to emphasize the value of the Canadian interagency cooperation.

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