



# BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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## NOTICE TO PRODUCERS

July 8, 2021

### RE: WILDFIRE PROTOCOL for Initial Attack by Local Stakeholders

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The BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) has been in discussions with FLNRORD and BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) about the need to supplement provincial fire support efforts. BCCA has encouraged the Province to establish agreed upon protocol for stakeholder response to new fires that start in their community, both on Crown and private lands. **We are pleased to report that the following protocol and criteria have been agreed upon regarding initial attack by local stakeholders.**

#### Protocol for initial attack by local stakeholders:

- Local stakeholders have the ability to make a first response on a fire that has started in their community and is not yet being actioned by BC Wildfire Services.
- The purpose of this activity is to locate the fire and provide initial containment/suppression to prevent it from increasing in size or threat.
- Local stakeholder responders are cautioned to only take steps to action the fire if safe to do so.
- Local stakeholder responders are required to report the fire to the BC Wildfire Service, and to notify BC Wildfire Service that you will have crews/equipment in the area. This is to ensure that BCWS is aware of your activity prior to deploying aerial fire support and the safety of crews on the ground.
- All local stakeholders are urged to have water nearby and to have an exit route planned.
- Immediately upon arrival, BC Wildfire Service will assume command of the fire from the local stakeholders. Stakeholders may be asked BCWS to remain on the fire and assist in the suppression or containment activities; however, BCWS will be in charge of the fire and crews.

#### SUMMARY OF STEPS for Local Stakeholder Fire Suppression Actions:

1. **REPORT** any fires to BC Wildfire Service immediately (1 800 663-5555 or \*5555).
2. **NOTIFY** BC Wildfire Services that you are initiating fire suppression activities.  
*\*\* This is a critical safety measure that ensures BCWS is aware of your presence prior to aerial support being engaged.*
3. **CREW SAFETY** is essential. All local stakeholders are urged to communicate their location to fire command, have water on hand and have an exit plan in case the fire behaviour changes.
4. **KEEP RECORD** of the equipment and personnel engaged in local stakeholder suppression.
5. **FIRE COMMAND** will be assumed by BC Wildfire Service immediately upon arrival.

#### **CONTACTS:**

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