

What is the Canadian Forest Service doing about the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Problem in Canada?

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Abstract

The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) is the national forestry service of the Government of Canada. The CFS is largely a research and development organization. There are many elements of the wildland-urban interface (WUI) fire problem that fall within its mandate. The focus of this presentation will be on: (1) historical and current perspectives on the WUI fire problem in Canada; (2) previous CFS fire research efforts directed at the WUI fire problem (<http://www.nofc.forestry.ca/fire/frn>); (3) Partners in Protection (<http://www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca/>); and (4) the International Crown Fire Modelling Experiment (<http://www.nofc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/fire/frn/nwt/>). Canada shares many parallels with the United States when it comes to the WUI fire problem and so there many opportunities for collaboration to address this issue in North America wide basis.

Biographical Sketch

Marty Alexander is a Senior Fire Behavior Research Officer with the Canadian Forest Service located at the Northern Forestry Centre in Edmonton, Alberta; he is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta, an Alberta Registered Professional Forester, Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Wildland Fire* and Consulting Editor (Fire Behavior) of *Wildfire* magazine. He is one of the co-coordinators of the International Crown Fire Modelling Experiment. Marty has in his 25-year career with the CFS specialized in studying the physical aspects and impacts of wildland fires, including the practical application of such knowledge to fire management issues. He was one of the architects of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System and has been heavily involved in fire behavior training on a national basis. From 1989-93 he was on professional development/educational leave from the CFS in Australia and New Zealand. Prior to joining the CFS in 1976, Marty worked for the Colorado State Forest Service and the USDA Forest Service in fire management (Greybull hotshot crew; Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

fuel inventory) and fire research (National Fire Danger Rating Project) from 1972-74. He received his B.Sc (Forest Management Science, 1974) and M.Sc. (Forest Fire Science, 1979) degrees from Colorado State University and his Ph.D. degree in Forestry from the Australian National University in 1998. Marty, his wife Heather and their four children (3 boys & 1 girl) live on a wooded acreage southeast of Edmonton near the southern extent of the boreal forest in western Canada where he serves as one of the fire guardians for the New Sarepta Rural Fire Response Area. He is the immediate Past President of the New Sarepta Minor Hockey Association and currently serves as an assistant coach on three teams.