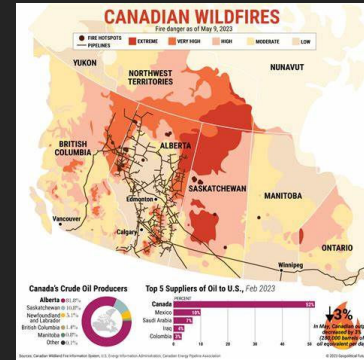
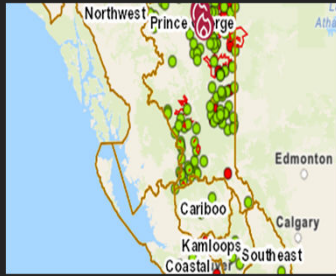




Safety Moment

- **Wildfires: Impact on Pipelines & your DP Program**

It's an early fire season. Drought continues from last year, with not enough rain last Fall & low snow pack this winter. Holdover, or Zombie, fires are coming to life. It's important to know that most spring wildfires are human-caused.



Wildfires affecting Canada



Canada 2024

BC already has 5 Wildfires of Note with Evacuation Orders. One pipeline company has already shut in & evacuated. AB & MB have evacuation alerts. The image on the left shows fires in BC. On the right were fires in 2023 (you can see how Central Canada was impacted) & below is an image of all fires in Canada now. Every province is impacted already. The CER has activated our EOC at Level 1 (Enhanced Monitoring) as pipelines are being impacted.



Fire Suppression Equipment

- Fire engines
- Excavators / backhoes
- heavy dump trucks
- Logging trucks
- Feller bunchers

We may not be too worried about wildfires impacting buried pipelines, but we are concerned about the impact that vehicles can have on pipelines. This is a partial list of Fire Suppression equipment that can pose risk to pipelines.

Vehicle Crossings



During planned ignitions -
Vehicles drive on pipeline RoWs to
ignite fires in controlled burns

CER Act 335 (2)

DPR – Authorizations s.12

Operating a vehicle or mobile equipment across a pipeline, including over the right-of-way, is **prohibited unless:**

- ▶ **There's consent from the pipeline company**
- ▶ **Vehicle's on the travelled portion of a highway or public road**

Fire can't reburn, so planned ignitions are a safer option. Wildland firefighters prefer pipeline RoWs to travel along & build fire breaks on, but they don't want to rupture a pipeline, as that greatly increases risk to workers & forests. Pipeline companies should be working with Wildfire Services in each province to ensure that they follow safe procedures with vehicle crossings. There are laws governing operation of a vehicle or equipment across a pipeline, for good reason.



Risks from vehicle crossings

DPR-Authorizations s.12

Heavy equipment increases danger due to:

- Stresses on pipe, depth of cover, pipe materials, soil type (rutting $\geq 30\text{cm}$)
- Bearing pressure imposed by static & dynamic loads
- Weight load calculation is required to determine if vehicle weight with/without load can harm the pipe



Ruts 30 cm or deeper in the prescribed area are a ground disturbance. Soil conditions pose a risk of deep ruts caused by vehicles or mobile equipment.

And these are some reasons that vehicle crossings pose a risk to pipelines: there can be stresses on pipe depending on the soil they're in & pressures from static or dynamic loads, so weight load calculations must be done. Companies can do these Surface Load Assessments ahead of time if they know there are fires approaching their pipeline RoWs and if they work with Wildfire Services to find out what kind of equipment will be driven on the RoWs. Remember that deep ruts can also be an issue if they impact depth of cover over pipelines.

Emergency Locates

- When it's a Public Safety Issue:
- Emergency Locate in BC, request only if heading to Wildfire:
 1. If on site or enroute, CALL 1-800-474-6886
 2. Select Option # 1 Emergency
 3. Tell One Call agent you're placing an Emergency "Wildfire – Pipeline Crossing" Locate Request
- If going to be on site tomorrow, place a Priority Call (website or call)
 - Priority is asking for the information right away
 - Response time is less than the normal 3 days
 - No guarantee as companies still have 3 days

When a fire's approaching a pipeline RoW & wildland firefighters are crossing a RoW **today**, this is declared a **Public Safety issue**. Pipeline companies should be asking Wildfire Services to notice pipeline markers &, if they find themselves suddenly on a pipeline RoW or driving along a Row enroute to a wildfire, they're to either contact the company directly or place an Emergency Locate thru the One Call Ctr. In BC, BC1Call says they are **NOT** to go to the website but are to do an **Emergency Locate by phoning only**. Remember, this is not the time to think that it's operation as usual -- your company needs to have a plan to respond to Emergency Locates. What have you organized with the One Call Centre in your province?

Wildfire Management Plan



- Discuss wildfires in tailgate meetings
- Fire Boss on site known to all
- Ignition Sources: Identify activities (welding, chainsaws, tires...) Rail tracks nearby?
- Surface Load Assessments
- Firefighting tools: ready to use at unmanned stations/plants
- Egress blocked down shoe-flys
- Exercises (put out fires; muster; evacuation routes)

Most companies have sophisticated WMPs. Smaller pipeline companies on the call today may not. Your Plan should contain, at the very least, Wildfire Service contact information; what the fire danger rating is at the locations of your operations; how to determine if your proposed activity is considered a "high risk activity"; **daily** fire weather data & forecasts; what Fire Suppression Equipment they'll be using in your locations; how you're dealing with aboveground stations that can be impacted by fires; if you're sending people down shoe-flys / dead end roads where they can get trapped); & what to include in Tailgate Meetings (such as who the Fire Boss is; what ignition sources are on site; how to discard cigarettes, etc.). Will your WMP be posted on your external website for contractors & landowners to see and know that you're managing wildfires near your infrastructure & near where they live & work?

Thank you

CER Onshore Pipeline Regulations

6.5(1)(t) establish and implement a process for developing contingency plans for abnormal events that may occur during construction, operation, maintenance, abandonment or emergency situations

Half the wildfires in Canada each year are caused by people. People can also be the solution to stop or prevent fires. So, it is hoped that #1. you have a Wildfire Management Plan; 2. that you will work out an Emergency Locate procedure with the One Call Centre in every province that you have pipelines in. And 3. be ready to respond to Emergency Locates. Thank you and Good Luck this Fire Season.