

January 7, 2008

Re: Industry Recognized Practice Development for BC Wildfire Act and Regulation

Dear Stakeholder:

The Wildfire Industry Recognized Practice Committee has identified you, or your company or organization, as engaging in operations on or near forest and grass land that may be impacted by the requirements of the new *Wildfire Act* and *Wildfire Regulation*. Therefore, we would like to officially invite you to participate in the development of a proposed Industry Recognized Practice (IRP) for **Fire Suppression Systems and Fire Fighting Hand Tools**.

Details about this proposed IRP can be found in the attached *Notice of Industry Recognized Practice Development for B.C. Wildfire Act and Regulation*. For your information, a Discussion Paper is also attached referring to the new Wildfire Act and Regulations, and describing why the IRP is required.

This letter comprises part of the attached official Notice of the Wildfire IRP Committee's intent to seek the input of stakeholders such as service-providing operators, contractors, consultants, administrators, project sponsors, regulators, and any other party with a direct or indirect interest in the matter discussed.

If you would like to participate, you must make a submission to the Committee by February 5, 2008. Please include the following information in your submission:

- Description of your current practices pertaining to fire suppression tools and systems (i.e., written procedures). This would include the number and type of fire fighting hand tools, and the type of fire suppression system you use. The definitions in the *Wildfire Regulation* are as follows:
 - **"fire fighting hand tools"** includes shovels, axes, pulaskis, hand tank pumps and fire extinguishers
 - **"fire suppression system"** means a system for suppressing fire by delivering water, a suppressant or a surfactant
- If you do not have standardized practices pertaining to fire suppression tools and systems, your opinion on what you think the practices should be.

For your convenience, the most current versions of the *Wildfire Act* and *Wildfire Regulation* can be found on the Ministry of Forests website at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/comptoc.htm>

The Committee is interested in hearing your position and opinions on the issue so we can take into account your interests. The information on your current practices will be used to help determine commonalities across industries, as well as inconsistencies or areas where practices are non-existent. After reviewing submissions, the Committee will present a

draft IRP for a second 30-day public review. At the conclusion of that second review, assuming general consensus among the Committee, the IRP will be adopted. The Committee intends to conclude the process before the 2008 wildfire season.

If you know any other individual or organization who should participate in this process, please feel free to forward these materials to them directly.

Your submission should be sent as soon as possible, but no later than the end of business day on February 5, 2008. Please submit by letter or email to:

Amelia Needoba
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North Vancouver, BC, V6J 3B5
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If you have any questions, please contact:

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Western Silvicultural Contractors' Association
RR#3 Site 36 Compartment 9
Nelson, B.C. V1L 5P6
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Thank you very much for your interest.

Sincerely,

The Wildfire Industry Recognized Standard Committee
Vancouver, BC

Attachments:

- Notice of Industry Recognized Practice Development for B.C. Wildfire Act and Regulation for: Fire Suppression Systems and Fire Fighting Hand Tools
- Discussion Paper