

Wildfire: Reporting and Billing



Introduction

Municipal fire services across the province are often the first line of wildfire response. Providing this wildfire response across numerous jurisdictions and land ownership complicates an already difficult task. Navigating jurisdictional concerns during a time-sensitive response places people, property, and the environment at additional risk.

Within their jurisdiction, most municipal fire departments are familiar with the appropriate billing and reporting procedures for private and municipal lands. However, provincial lands, land that the province (the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency) is responsible for managing the wildfire on, is more complex.

This handout serves to provide an overview of the **Wildfire Reporting and Billing** for wildfire response on Provincial land, referred to as the wildfire management area. This area includes provincial forests (including those within a Rural Municipality (RM) and the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District (NSAD)), parkland, vacant Crown Land, and every quarter section of land within 4.5 km of a provincial forest. See **Schedule "A"** for a complete list.

Under ***The Wildfire Act: Section 10***, the minister (SPSA) is responsible for wildfire management within a wildfire management area. A rural municipality is responsible for controlling fire in their jurisdiction, *except* if the fire started within the wildfire management area. If the fire originated within an area of the RM, that is within the wildfire management area, the province is responsible for managing it.

The Wildfire Act: Section 12

Reporting

If a municipality undertakes actions to control and extinguish a wildfire within a wildfire management area, the municipality shall immediately notify an agency officer and shall obtain approval from SPSA to continue those actions.

The minister is not required to reimburse the municipality for costs or expenses of controlling and extinguishing a wildfire if the municipality has failed to provide the notice required in subsection (3).

If your fire department is responding to a fire that the province is responsible for, or they become aware of a fire within the wildfire management area, inform the SPSA. The Chief or designate can:

- **call 911 - they will notify SPSA;**
- **call SPSA at 1-800-667-9660; or**
- **notify your Emergency Services Officer.**

The Responsible Protection Area will ensure an investigator is called out to complete the investigation. This will determine the point of origin and suspected cause. If your fire department incurs costs managing a fire that the province is responsible for, and your fire department informs the SPSA as soon as possible, the SPSA will reimburse those costs.

Billing

*The minister may reimburse a municipality for the **reasonable** costs or expenses it incurs as a result of controlling and extinguishing a wildfire within a wildfire management area if the municipality:*

- a. has complied with this Act, the regulations, and the code; and*
- b. has provided the minister with a report satisfactory to the minister that establishes that the wildfire originated in the wildfire management area and that contains the prescribed information.*

There is no formal report required for billing. However, please note the date, time, and location of the fire and provide details regarding the number of responders, equipment, and response hours.

This information should be provided to the investigator assigned to the fire or your local Emergency Services Officer.

Schedule A

The following list identifies the lands lying south of the Provincial Forest, in the wildfire management area, that the SPSA is responsible for:

- Provincial Crown Lands - Includes Crown lands held by the previous title or recently purchased by the Crown from private individuals.
- Vacant Crown Lands – (see point #2 below).
- Provincial Community Pastures Resource.
- Crown Lands Ecological Reserves.
- Ministry of Agriculture Lands.
- Wildlife Refuges, Game Preserves, and Wildlife Management Units not disposed of by lease or held under private title.
- Crown WHPA Lands not disposed of by lease.
- Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) Lands.
- Wildlife Lands including Wildlife Mitigation Lands in the Rafferty/Alameda projects.
- Parkland.
- Crown Corporation Holdings, including all provincial Ministries and agencies including their vacant and unleased land.
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways rights-of-way and land holdings not under lease which include Ferry Crossings.
- Foreshore Reserve Lands along permanent water bodies.
- Saskatchewan Water Corporation Environmental Protection Reserve Lands/lands owned by Water Corp not under private or non-government lease: example Rafferty/Alameda Reservoirs. • Lake line not under private lease along Diefenbaker Reservoir and Buffalo Pound Lake.
- Lands jointly held by the Crown and another party.
- The SPSA is not responsible for federal lands unless identified by an agreement.