

2025 WILDFIRE OVERVIEW



2025 – Officially most severe Wildfire season in the last 30yrs



Dry conditions and record-low soil moisture contributed to early and aggressive start – April 26

- Total fires – 433
- Burned area – 2,169,858 (hectares)

Province declared two states of emergency

- May 28 – June 23
- July 10 – August 22

34 States of Local Emergency (SoLEs) were declared

Impacts and Disruptions



Widespread disruptions to critical services and infrastructure:

MB Hydro reported

- 1200 damaged or destroyed wood poles
- Significant power outages
- Deployment of temporary generators

Telecommunications and postal services suspended – required temporary backup systems

Water treatment plants experienced disruptions, which led to boil water advisories in some communities

Humanitarian Response and Evacuations



59 communities impacted and requiring a coordinated response from multiple agencies

- 32,000 individuals / 12,600 households evacuated
- 2300 individuals evacuated to Niagara Falls
- 21 - First Nations were evacuated
- 20 – Northern Affairs communities were evacuated
- 10 – Provincial parks experienced closure and evacuation orders
- 8 – Rural municipalities, cities, and towns were evacuated

Humanitarian Response and Evacuations

May 30 to June 3 – Royal Canadian Air Force evacuated 4100 individuals from multiple Northern MB locations

- 18 aircraft used

Largest domestic evacuation operation with the largest domestic Air Task Force response in Canadian history



Reception Centres and Congregate Sites

- Unified response – CRC, province, leadership from local authorities and First Nations
- 3 reception centres – Brandon, Winnipeg, Thompson
- 9 congregate shelters established within province

CRC's largest wildfire response in history, including the deployment of over 100 American Red Cross personnel to support operations at the RBC

Federal and International Assistance



3 Requests for Federal Assistance (RFA) including one for humanitarian assistance

- May 28 – CAF airlift and logistics supplies from PHAC (Public Health Agency of Canada)
- July 10 – CAF airlift and logistical support for the evacuation of Garden Hill FN and Pukatawagan
- July 13 – Humanitarian Workforce Program – staffing for shelters in Winnipeg



Wildfire Support

- 6 countries (895 personnel)
- 6 provinces (309 personnel)

City of Brandon – Identified as Host Community

May 14

- Received 101 community members – Wabaseeming Independent Nation (White Dog) overnight – Ontario EMO

May 25

- Cross Lake FN(Pimicikamak) arrival

May 28

- Full evacuation Cross Lake / Flin Flon
- Access transit request to support Flin Flon PCH residents to Virden with BFES support

May 29

- BUAPC (Wijiian) support
- BFES deployed to Lynn Lake (wildfire support)



City of Brandon – Host Community



June 1

BPS officer and cadets stationed at BRHA

- 11 hotels, 6 communities, Turtle Crossing campground, friends and family

June 2

1st Community evacuee meeting

- Mayor/Madison, Community Liaisons, SCO, CRC, Wijiwan
- Space, donations, requested transit, recreation, YMCA free entry, Sunrise credit union (donations)

June 4

BFES increased staffing (1800-2400hrs)

City of Brandon – Host Community

June 6

- Potential ball tournament impact
- Local Provincial ESS involvement
- 1175 evacuees
- Sioux Valley DN congregate shelter

June 8

- BFES paramedics deployed to Lynn Lake

June 9

- BPS/FNSO agreement through SCO (Leanne / Mike)

June 11

- Access Transit receiving direct calls to support individual appointments



City of Brandon – Host Community

July 12

- Potential impact from Lacrosse tournament – BU stepped up

July 21

- Brandon Friendship Centre received funding to support childcare (Clarion)

July 23

- Manitoba Metis Federation operations

July 26

- Recreation / Transit approved by CRC (reimbursement)

July 29

- Fun and the Sun



City of Brandon – Host Community

Aug 24

- BSD began to register kids for school

Aug 29

- Provincial ESS on-call only support

Aug 30

- Pukatawagan standing up own school at Travelodge

Aug 31

- FNSO last shift

Sept 18

- BSD (69 kids registered, average 35 attended, down to 15 with community returns

Sept 26

- Last evacuees returned, CRC demobilized



Response Summary

- 128 days
- 18 different communities
- Peaked at 1175+
- 12 hotels, campground, family and friends
- No SoE enacted in Brandon
- Additional support
 - FNSO
 - Community liaisons / SCO
 - BSD
 - Childcare
- DFA Claim
 - BFES overtime
 - Access Transit costs
- After action review – AEMA / MB EMO



After Action Review – Feedback – What worked well?

- Provincial communication & updates
- Deployment of the FNSO to Brandon
- Communication between local partners
- Justice financial support for BPS
- City services support
- Importance of community partners

After Action Review – Feedback – Areas for improvement?

- Congregate and other host community requests
- Media inquiries
- Approval process for reimbursement
- Requirements of a host community
- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA)
- What works in one host community does not always work in another
- Clarity of roles as a host community

Community Partners – THANK YOU!!

Canadian Red Cross

Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO)

Provincial ESS

MB FNSO

MB EMO

Justice

Prairie Mountain Health (PMH)

Brandon School Division

Community Liaisons

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

Brandon University

Keystone Centre

Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF)

CFB Shilo

Brandon Friendship Centre

BUAPC

Wijjiiian

Brandon Flying Club

Community businesses

Hotels / Restaurants

Residents

Brandon Transit

Brandon Recreation

Brandon Municipal Airport

Brandon Police Service

Brandon Fire Emergency Services

Mayor's office

2026 Wildfire Season?