

HAYES CREEK FIREFIGHTERS

June 2016 Newsletter

Well, here it is, spring again in Hayes Creek Fire District and time to think of summer activities, all that is happening in Alberta, the coming fire season, and what you can do to be fire safe and protect your property.

Large fires, like those in Alberta, last year's Rock Creek, and the Kelowna fire create their own "weather" and are largely not put out by man. The Kelowna fire was fought by almost every fire department in BC but extinguished by weather changes like a wind changing where the fire burns back on spent fuel or...rain.

The forests around us here have more accumulated unburnt fuel because of the pine beetle kill than old timers can ever remember. Our risk is great for a devastating burn here as our homes are in that interface area. Homes that are lost, and those that are saved, seem to be random but often it is fire prevention, landscaping materials and building construction that make the difference. On the back of this page is a fire assessment sheet you can use to rate and help "fire-safe" your property.

In the last year, Hayes Creek Fire/Rescue has responded to 30 emergency calls - 5 fires (logging truck fire, car fire, 2 brush fires and a chimney fire), 17 medical calls with EHS, 3 MVA's with injuries, a burst pipe, a snowmobile rescue, a power line down, and a major flooding call. A total of 39 volunteers, including mutual aid from neighbouring Erris F.D., 2 resident owned backhoes, 4 resident owned tractors, and a local sand truck worked together filling and placing sandbags at 5 different locations. Three homes were damaged and 3 culverts overwhelmed. It should be noted help from RDOS and the province did not arrive until 16 hours after the emergency began, and the work was mostly done by then, so plan on being on our own for some time in any emergency. It takes time to get those big wheels turning. It should also be noted that 2 brush fires have already occurred this year with our giving mutual aid to Erris on one of them using 5000 gallons of water and 10,000 gallons of foam to put it out.



NOTE: all open burning is now banned in our area with only small campfires permitted, also banned till October 15th are burn barrels and all fireworks with fines increased this year from \$345 to \$1,150. Please call forestry at 1-800-663-5555 to report illegal fires and when campfires are banned most reported are legal propane campfires, so check that it is not one of these before calling. Please do an assessment of your property, be careful with fire and have a safe happy summer.

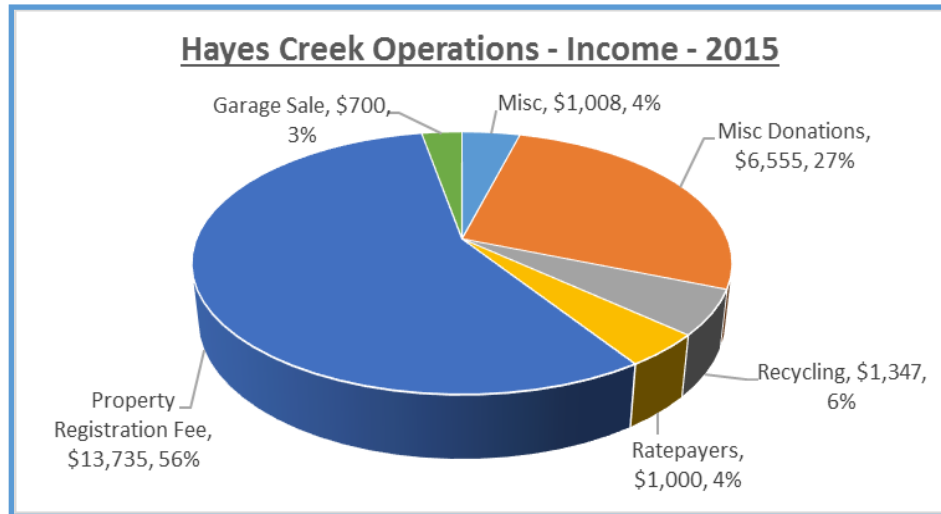
For fire restrictions or campfire bans go to BCFire Info - www.bcwildfire.ca - we are in the Kamloops Fire District. For more info go to FIRESMART BC. for manuals and for emergency preparedness go to PREPARED BC.

We are holding the fire hall benefit garage sale again this year at Stan & Gail's every weekend from 10-2 at 138 Country Lane until August. All donations accepted.

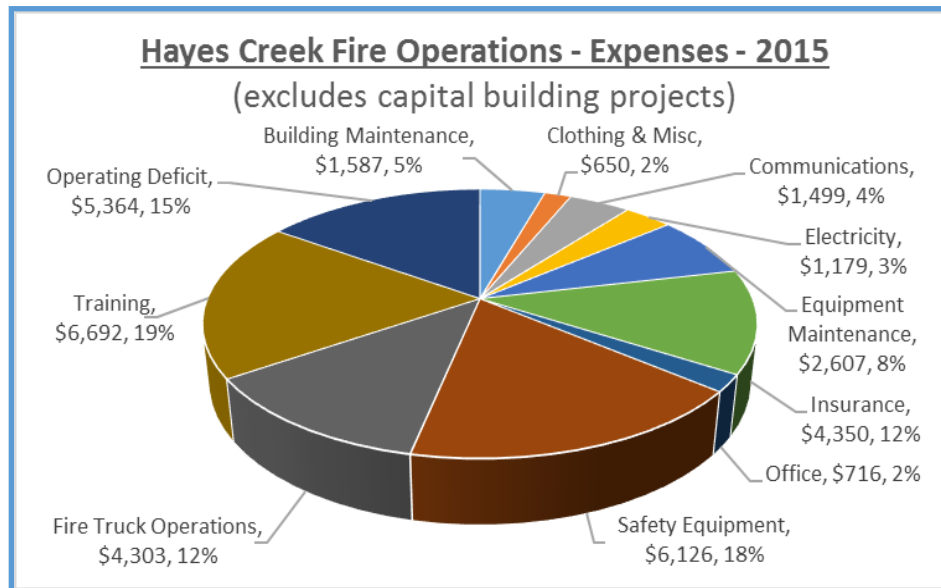
The pancake breakfasts at the fire hall will be held 10:00am to noon - July 7th, August 28th, October 2nd,

November 6th and December 4th. The cost is just \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10. Come and support your fire hall.

These pie charts show operations income and 2015 expenses for Hayes Creek Fire showing property registration fees pay for just 56% of the operating expenses. The rest coming from bottle/can collections, donations, garage sale, pancake breakfast income



and grants.



Grants, not shown, are \$20,000 from Lotto Gaming for training and equipment and \$58,500 from Forest Corp (area logging assessment administered through RDOS) to be used for infrastructure improvements.

This brings the total spent in 2015 to \$91,649, which property registration fees only make up roughly 15%.

The \$58,500 along with thousands of volunteer hours by community members built

a 1,500 sq.ft. fire hall addition for community refuge, a meeting place, as well as a workshop, additional inside truck parking, and large bottle/can sorting room. Again time volunteered by community members giving back to their community.

The \$20,000 gaming grant was used for advanced training and emergency equipment. We are looking at using some of last year's Lotto Grant to buy and install a 16KW propane generator to power the refuge centre for long periods of time in case of major power outages.

For 2016 we have been granted a \$12,000 infrastructure grant, this will go toward:

- * A grade level entry deck on the east side.
- * Concrete work on the west side and a better refundable drop-off room.
- * A handicapped washroom upstairs.
- * Completion of our 4000 gal firefighting refill water tank.
- * Flooring and ceiling finished



This year Hayes Creek Fire collected money from the community to send to Fort McMurray Firefighters at the time of their disaster. They lost homes too.

Thank you to everyone who paid his or her property registration fees for this year. They are due December 31st for each year. If you have any questions regarding your property registration fee, please call Gail.

Have a happy safe summer from your neighbours at Hayes Creek Fire.

DIRECTORS

Rob Miller	Brent Fraser	Hermann Zorn	Gail Dickson
250-295-6420	250-295-0170	250-295-6254	250-295-6898

2016 PROPERTY REGISTRATION FORM - \$100/year/property:

Please Mail to:
HAYES CREEK VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOC.
RR#1 S14 C23
PRINCETON, BC. V0X1W0

NAME: _____

E-MAIL _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PROPERTY ADDRESS: _____

LOCAL PHONE NUMBER _____ HOME PHONE NUMBER _____

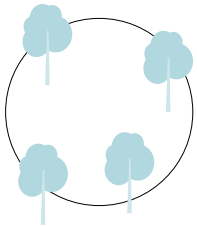
Assess Your Risk from Wildfire

Answer the questions below to see which changes will make the greatest difference in reducing your home's risk from wildfire.

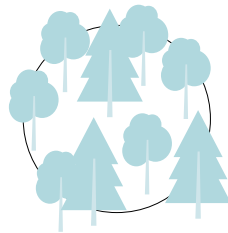
HOME / 10 metres		ZONE 1	
What type of roofing material do you have?	Metal, clay tile, asphalt shingle or ULC-rated shakes (may be affected by the condition of your roof)	0	
	Unrated wood shakes	30	
How clean is your roof?	No needles, leaves or other combustible materials	0	
	A scattering of needles and leaves	2	
	Clogged gutters and extensive leaves	3	
What is the exterior of your home built of?	Non-combustible material, stucco, metal siding or brick	0	
	Logs or heavy timbers	1	
	Wood, vinyl siding or wood shakes	6	
How fire-resistant are your windows and doors?	Tempered glass in all doors/windows	0	
	Double-pane glass - small/medium (smaller than 1 metre x 1 metre)	1	
	Double-pane glass - large (greater than 1 metre x 1 metre)	2	
	Single-pane glass - small/medium (smaller than 1 metre x 1 metre)	2	
	Single-pane glass - large (greater than 1 metre x 1 metre)	4	
Are your eaves closed up and your vents screened?	Closed eaves, vents screened with 3-millimetre wire mesh	0	
	Closed eaves, vents without mesh	1	
	Open eaves, vents not screened	6	

HOME / 10 metres		ZONE 1	
Have you sheathed-in the underside of your balcony, deck, porch or open foundation?	Sheathed with fire-resistant materials	0	
	Sheathed with combustible materials	2	
	Not sheathed	6	
Is your home set back from the edge of a slope?	Building is located on the bottom or lower portion of a hill	0	
	Building is located on the mid to upper portion of a hill or the crest of a hill	6	
HOME SCORE			
YARD / within 10 metres of home		ZONE 1	
Where are your outbuildings located?	More than 10 metres from home	0	
	Less than 10 metres from home	6	
Where is your woodpile located?	More than 10 metres away from any building	0	
	Less than 10 metres away from any building	6	
What type of forest grows within 10 metres of your home?	TREES		
	Deciduous (e.g. poplar, birch)	0	
	Mixed wood (both conifer and deciduous)	30	
	Conifer (e.g. spruce, pine, fir, cedar)	30	
What kind of surface vegetation and combustible materials are within 10 metres of your home and outbuildings?	Well-drained lawn or non-combustible landscaping material	0	
	Uncut grass or shrubs	30	
	Twigs, branches and tree needles on the ground	30	
YARD (within 10 metres of home) SCORE			

What type of forest surrounds your home?	TREES	
	Deciduous (e.g. poplar, birch, cottonwood)	0
What kind of surface vegetation grows within 10–30 metres of your home?	Mixed wood (both conifer and deciduous)	10
	CONIFER (e.g. spruce, pine, fir, cedar) <i>See illustration below.*</i>	
What kind of surface vegetation grows in the zones around your buildings?	Separated	10
	Continuous	30
Are there shrubs and low branches (within 2 metres of the ground) in the surrounding forest?	TWIGS, BRANCHES AND NEEDLES ON THE GROUND	
	Scattered	5
	Abundant	30
	Uncut grass or shrubs	5
YARD (10–30 metres) SCORE	None within 10–30 metres	0
	Scattered within 10–30 metres of buildings	5
	Abundant within 10–30 metres of buildings	10



SEPARATED
Trees are widely spaced and crowns do not touch or overlap



CONTINUOUS
High stand density, where trees are tightly spaced and crowns frequently touch or overlap

Home and Yard Hazard Score

SITE		TOTAL SCORE
Zone 1 / Home and Yard	Home	
	10 metres from the home	
Zone 2 / Yard	10–30 metres from the home	

HAZARD SCORE: Low: <21 Moderate: 21-29 High: 30-35 Extreme: >35

HOME CONSIDERATIONS

- Have you discussed wildfire damage and loss with your insurance provider?
- Is your roof in poor condition? A roof in poor condition will not provide protection from sparks and embers. Fire resistance deteriorates over time; check manufacturer guidelines to assess your roof's condition and potential fire resistance.
- Is your chimney clean? Does it have proper clearances, screens and spark arrestors?

YARD CONSIDERATIONS

- Is the area within 10 metres of buildings free of flammable trees, other vegetation and combustible materials?
- Are large-capacity propane tanks within 10 metres of buildings? Are they clear of vegetation?
- Is fire suppression equipment readily available? Shovels, rakes, buckets and hoses should be easily accessible.
- Are burn barrels screened and at least 10 metres from combustible materials and buildings?
- Are overhead power lines clear of vegetation? Contact your service provider for assistance with removing trees close to utility lines.