



# WILDFIRE DEFENSE SYSTEMS

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This information has been provided at the Request of the Candle Lake, SK, Authority Having Jurisdiction

## **RE: WILDFIRE DEFENSE SYSTEMS DELIVERY OF QUALIFIED INSURANCE RESOURCE SERVICES IN SASKATCHEWAN**

**SUMMARY:** During wildfire incidents residents, public fire resources, and law enforcement may see or encounter private wildfire resources retained by insurance companies to provide wildfire loss intervention services to their policyholders.

**WHO YOU MAY SEE:** Wildfire Defense Systems, Inc. / Wildfire Defence Systems Canada Inc. is a Qualified Insurance Resource (QIR). Multiple insurance companies writing homeowner coverage include WDS wildfire loss intervention services as standard in their policies. On any wildfire incident, up to 40% of threatened properties may require WDS' services.

Qualified Insurance Resources are personnel and equipment working for an insurance company with a mission to perform wildfire loss intervention services to insured structures. QIRs operate in compliance with and acknowledgement of Incident Command (IC) or the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). WDS field personnel are trained to National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards and satisfy equivalent Canadian/Provincial standards operating wildland engines, tenders, and squads built and maintained to NWCG specifications.

**WHAT WDS RESOURCES LOOK LIKE:** It is likely you will encounter WDS firefighters and equipment wherever wildfire threatens homes. WDS wildland engines, tenders, and support vehicles are white with blue striping and bear "INSURANCE RESOURCE" markings. WDS field personnel are outfitted with PPE the same as any qualified wildland firefighter you would see.



**WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:** WDS field personnel follow a strict set of procedures and protocols and are trained to act in a safe, disciplined, and professional manner. Arriving WDS units will:

- Locate the ICP, IC, and the liaison officer.
- Submit their operations plan, including property addresses where we need to provide mitigation services.
- Request a briefing.
- Seek the approval of the IMT to operate within evacuation zones.
- Observe all instructions and orders of the IMT.

**WHAT ARE WILDFIRE LOSS INTERVENTION ACTIONS:** WDS QIRs will conduct pre and post-firefront wildfire loss intervention services which may include any of the following:

Pre-firefront activities:

- Removal of combustibles from structure exteriors.
- Sealing of windows, doors, vents, and chimneys.
- Emergency fuel mitigation.
- Zone sprinkler system setup (WDS will not connect to any public or incident water supply).

- Fuel break preparation.
- Apply approved, environmentally safe fire retardant and/or fire blocking gel.

Post-firefront activities:

- Check and extinguish any hot spots, residual fires, or embers
- Remove sealing and covering materials from structures.
- Breakdown sprinkler systems.
- Clean-up/wash down retardant and gel.

**ADDITIONAL WDS KEY SERVICE POINTS:**

- Homes are triaged and served based on threat, not value.
- Response is included in a property owner's policy.
- Response is in anticipation of wildfire threat. No night operations. No fire front suppression.
- No service contracts with any public agency, ministry, or province.
- Operates within the incident command system:
  - operates only with the acknowledgement and permission of the AHJ
  - crews are self-sufficient:
    - no cost to the incident.
    - no drain on incident resources.
  - provides the incident with a complete list of properties it will serve.
  - upon request, provides the incident with property action reports.
- Employs only proven strategies and tactics that preserves property.
- Intervention activities complement the overall incident.

Policyholders should contact their insurance company or brokers to determine whether WDS service is included in their homeowner's policy. WDS Insurance Resource Commanders or incident liaisons will introduce themselves when arriving on incident and are always available to incident command and/or the Authority Having Jurisdiction.