

Fire Start Information:

The B.C. Government confirms the [ten-year average number](#) of forest fires is about 1,352 each year.

The [Ministry of Forests](#) categorizes the cause of these fires into two broad groups: lightning and human-caused activity. **Human-caused** activity in the forests of BC includes: logging operations, railroads, construction and tree planting. Many of these activities bring workers into remote areas of the province and create a potential for accidental fire starts. Working in the forests of BC requires care and attention, especially in the hot summer months. Sometimes, train brakes and track friction creates [sparks](#) that can fly off the rails and ignite nearby grass.

Lightning starts typically occur when lightning strikes contact the ground and dry fuels like leaves and grasses are ignited. These starts are closely monitored by special satellite tracking systems, which monitor the number of lightning strikes in the province. Initial attack firefighters are often dispatched to an area in which many lightning strikes have been detected.

Recreational activities in the province of BC include many things: camping, hiking, biking and even driving on our highways can result in possible fire starts. Any time people recreate in the dry woods, there is potential for fire. Most people are very careful to not start fires, but some are careless, leaving cigarettes burning and not fully extinguishing their campfires. In addition, arsonists, drawn by the awesome power of a forest fire, have been known to intentionally start fires in this province.

*The public plays a major role in reporting wild fires. When individuals notice a fire burning, they are asked to phone the Provincial Forest Fire Reporting Centre **1-800-663-5555**. This important number can be called from anywhere in the province; you may have noticed it before on road signs and on the sides of Ministry of Forests trucks.*