



PFLA PIPELINE
ISSUE 3

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT & ABATEMENT

WILDFIRE

Disclaimer: This guide is for information purposes only. It is not legal advice. Practitioners should refer to relevant legislation.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

FIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND ABATEMENT

This guide describes the legal requirements for fire hazard assessment and abatement (FHAA) to reduce wildfire risk from fuel conditions left behind after industrial or prescribed activities. FHAA activities are important tools to reduce the fire hazard potential of these fuels. Under the Wildfire Act, a person carrying out an industrial activity or prescribed activity is required to assess and abate potential fire hazards related to those activities.

WILDFIRE ACT AND REGULATION

The Wildfire Act is the governing legislation in BC for wildfire protection. The Act stipulates that hazard assessments and abatement must be carried out.

Section 7 of the Wildfire Act requires a person conducting an industrial activity or a prescribed activity on forest or grass land or within one kilometre of forest land or grass land to conduct fire hazard assessments and abate as needed or prescribed.

Section 11 and section 12 of the Wildfire Regulation set out the prescribed activities and the circumstances where fire hazards created by an industrial or prescribed activity must be abated. These sections also define the time limits and abatement levels that must be followed for both interface and non-interface areas. Interface areas are required to be assessed in shorter time periods than non-interface areas, because of the higher values at risk.



Harvested area with roadside slash accumulations piled for abatement. Photo: BC Wildfire Service

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

FIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND ABATEMENT CONT.

PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE ACT

The Wildfire Regulation's professional reliance options are supported by the **Professional Governance Act** (PGA). The PGA is the governing legislation for the forestry profession in BC. Within this framework, FPBC acts as the regulatory body for forest professionals.

OPEN BURNING SMOKE CONTROL REGULATION

The **Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation** (OBSCR) in conjunction with the Wildfire Act and Regulation 2 outline BC's open burning rules.

WHO CAN CARRY OUT THIS WORK?

Hazard Assessment

Section 7 of the Wildfire Act dictates who must complete fire hazard assessments. Conducting fire hazard assessments and developing fire hazard abatement strategies falls within the practice of professional forestry. Forest professionals can also prepare, review, amend and create hazard abatement strategies in accordance with FPBC Bylaws to meet the objectives set in legislation.

Hazard Abatement

Fire hazard abatement must be done by the person who carries out an industrial or prescribed activity that creates a fuel hazard. This guide identifies a baseline process for the determination of when abatement is required.

RESOURCES

Province of British Columbia, 2004, **Wildfire Act**

Province of British Columbia, 2005, **Wildfire Regulation**

Province of British Columbia, 2018, **Professional Governance Act**

Province of British Columbia, 2019, Environmental Management Act, **Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation**

BC Wildfire Service, 2025, **A Guide to Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement in British Columbia**

Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forestry Service, 1984, **Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System**

BC Wildfire Service, 2024, **Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement Q&A**



Photo: BC Wildfire Service