

# SaskPower Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Checklist

## General Information

SaskPower is required to prepare and implement a Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Plan for all operations occurring within the Provincial Forest and Provincial Parks during the Wildfire Season.

The Wildfire Season extends from April 01 to October 31 each year.

The plan discusses SaskPower's wildfire prevention and preparedness for:

1. Hydro and diesel power production operations
2. All construction and maintenance projects and programs
3. Transmission of electricity along transmission and distribution circuits
4. The operation of stations.

In the Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Plan SaskPower staff and contractors are responsible for:

1. Identifying ignition risks and implementing mitigation measures
2. Implementing slash management standards
3. Determining the Daily Fire Danger and briefing crews
4. Reporting any wildfires they discover
5. Responding to any wildfires that start in a work area or spread into a work area.



## Preventing Ignition

ACTIVITY	IGNITION SOURCE	IGNITION PREVENTION
Operation of Heavy Equipment	Sparks from contacting rocks or obstructions	Flag obstructions, brief operator Cease activities if sparking occurs
	Vehicle fire	Proper equipment maintenance Properly trained operators
Vehicle and Chainsaw Refueling	Spilled fuel igniting on hot mufflers	Care and attention during refuelling operations and extinguishers available
Hot Mufflers on ATVs and Vehicles	Debris and fine fuels contacting hot mufflers	Clear debris and fine fuels from mufflers daily No parking in areas with heavy fine fuels Heat shields on ATV mufflers
	Sparks from exhaust system	Spark arrestors Equipment maintained to manufacturer specs
Cutting Torches, Saws & Grinders	Sparks created during operation	Remove flammable fuels from immediate vicinity Operator monitors area for sparks and ignition Operator corrects problem if sparks occur
Maintenance of High Voltage Switches	Sparks created during the manual operation or maintenance of the switch	Immediately cease operations if sparks occur Hand tools and extinguishers readily available
Campfires and Slash Fires	Sparks and escaped fire	No open burning during Wildfire Season
Incinerator Burning	Sparks and escaped fire	All incinerators have spark-arresting technologies Incinerators located in open areas clear of fuels Monitor burning, suppression equipment on site
Trees Contacting Powerlines	Sparks, tree ignition or surface fuel ignition from energized wires	Operational protocols in place to avoid contacting powerlines and poles/towers during construction & maintenance ops; and for pruning and falling trees.
Operation of Stations	Electrocuted animals and birds may fall to the ground on fire and cause an ignition.	SaskPower is installing animal and bird deterrence in an effort to prevent this.

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## Slash Management

- Salvage merchantable timber when possible
- Slash will be salvaged for firewood where feasible to do so
- Buck trees into 5 metre lengths or in half
- Construct windrow piles not to exceed 1m in height
- Construct windrows with breaks 3-5 m wide every 60m
- Slash and windrow piles set back from standing forest
- Clear vegetation for 3 metres around camps and petroleum fuel storage areas
- No open burning during from April through October without Wildfire Branch approval

## Daily Wildfire Danger Awareness

1. SaskPower and contractor Project Supervisors will review the Daily Fire Danger Rating for their operating area from the Ministry of Environment website: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/fire>
2. Contractor Project Supervisors can access the Daily Fire Danger Rating through a link on the SaskPower Contractor Services website under the Environment tab.
3. During the morning Hazard and Aspect Risk Assessment (HARA):
  - Brief staff and contractors on current fire danger rating
  - Discuss specific ignition risks and appropriate prevention measures
  - Discuss today's emergency response plan for their operations
4. Document that the Fire Danger discussion occurred, and note any significant issues that were discussed.
5. Staff and contractors should monitor their work areas for sources of ignition during operations.
6. SaskPower and contractors will cease operations during periods of extreme fire danger as directed to do so by Wildfire Management Branch.

## SaskPower Firefighting Response

### In the event a wildfire occurs:

1. The project supervisor will decide whether to evacuate the area immediately.
2. Report the Fire to Ministry of Environment's Wildfire Reporting Number: 1-800-667-9660 for fires in the forests or parks, or to 911 for fires occurring in southern Saskatchewan; and include the information discussed in the **Report a Fire** section.
3. **At the discretion of the project supervisor, and only when it is safe to do so,** SaskPower's on-site staff may initiate suppression action on smouldering fires with shovels, fire extinguishers, and any available heavy equipment.



### Report a Fire

**1-800-667-9660**  
Provincial Forest & Parks

**911**  
Southern Saskatchewan

SaskPower staff and contractors should report every wildfire. Fires should be reported to the number indicated above, and provide the following information to the best of their ability:

- Location, size, direction and rate of spread of the fire
- Personnel and values threatened
- How the fire started and type of forest it is burning in
- Suppression actions underway or planned
- Hazards and hazardous goods threatened
- Contact information