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## Fire in British Columbia

**AFTER THE 2009 FOREST FIRE SEASON, FIRE FOCUSED DISCUSSION AND debate is raging across the province. In this issue, we bring you a variety of articles addressing fire fighting, fire prevention and lessons to be learned from another nation.**

In the realm of beating back the flames, Donna MacPherson, *et al.* opens this issue with their article, “On the Ground with the BC Forest Service,” where they take us step-by-step through how the wildfire management branch respond to a fire from the initial call to the final embers. Coulson Flying Tankers closes the Viewpoints section with a look at the Mars Martian, the famous BC waterbomber. The statistics for these planes are almost unbelievable; they can drop over 27,000 litres of water every 15 minutes. BC fire fighting infrastructure is in place and well able to defend our province.

Addressing fire prevention, Jackie Hipwell, RFT, talks to Mike Dittaro, RFT, about what the forest professional’s role is in fuel management. Then Greg Anderson, BSc, MSc, and Al Neal, BSc, RFT

discuss prescribed fire and its role in ecosystem restoration and fire prevention. Mechanical mastication in the wildland-urban interface is addressed by Robert Gray, John Przewczek, RPF and Richy Harrod. This fuel treatment option can be used in conjunction with prescribed fire or as a stand-alone tool. Finally, John Davies, RPF, talks about community wildfire protection plans including what’s involved in making them and the impact they are having on BC’s small towns. The key it seems is keeping fire prevention in the public eye between bad fire seasons.

Taking a step back, Michael Feller, PhD, talks about what Australia has learned during their last three bad fire seasons—2003, 2006 and 2009—and how BC can apply what the Australians have learned to our own situation.

We’ve published this issue in the spring so people are involved in fire fighting and prevention in the summer will have time to read it before the season begins again. I hope all our readers are able to find something useful to take away with them. 🍷