



FIRE FACTS



- ◆ Fire is a natural part of most ecosystems across BC and has played a major role in the ecology of BC's Interior.
- ◆ Forests need fire to renew the landscape by:
 - opening some types of cones to allow seeds to germinate
 - helping to recycle nutrients back in the soil
 - creating a variety of tree ages and tree species
 - keeping insects and disease in balance
 - allowing new types of vegetation and animal habitat to develop
- ◆ Fires are like living things- they want to expand and grow. They can burn uphill or downhill, depending on the winds, the time of day and the heating or cooling of the weather conditions.
- ◆ Fires come in different sizes and intensities, from cool, slow ground fires to hot, fast, explosive crown fires. The behaviour and severity of the fire is linked to factors such as the type of fuels, the landscape and the weather.
- ◆ Large fires can create their own wind and weather patterns that can include mini-tornadoes within the fire with wind speeds up to 150 km/hour.
- ◆ More than 2000 wildfires burn in BC each year, with about 1/2 from lightning strikes and 1/2 caused by people's carelessness with cigarettes, campfires, matches or machinery sparks.
- ◆ BC is a world leader in fire fighting technology and techniques. More than 94% of the fires that start each year are put out while they are still small in size.