



# FIRE & FLOOD EMERGENCY SERVICES LTD.

*“SAVING LIVES, PROPERTY & THE ENVIRONMENT”*



# Protecting Alberta Communities

Presented to Alberta Municipalities | June 1, 2026

PRESENTERS: ALLAN CLEIREN & JILL MOORE



# What We Will Cover Today

- 01** The Problem
- 02** How Fire & Flood Came to Be
- 03** Wildfire Suppression
- 04** Flood Mitigation
- 05** Rescue (REMS)
- 06** Proactive Planning & Rapid Deployment
- 07** Drayton Valley Case Study
- 08** Results & Partnership



# Emergency Firefighting Water Supply

## What This Is About

- Mobile water delivery for wildfire response
- Moving big volumes of water, fast, where it's needed
- A look at where hydrants and trucks can be supplemented
- How mobile hose systems close the gap

## Source Material

*Based on the California Emergency Firefighting Water Supply White Paper.*

The paper lays out where the current system breaks down in big fires - and what it takes to actually get water on the flames at scale.



# The Scale of the Wildfire Problem in California

## California & the WUI Crisis

- 201 deaths in California in the past 10 years, 48,000 California buildings lost to WUI fires
- 29 fatalities in the Palisades & Eaton (Jan 2025): 12,000+ structures lost in two days as hydrants ran dry
- Urban wildfires need tens of thousands of GPM; most departments reach only a half-mile
- Without it, crews abandon structures and watch fire spread

## Meeting the 1906 Moment

*“The well-researched paper... is intended for California to meet its 1906 Moment with sound recommendations... starting with a more robust emergency firefighting water supply.”*

### Brian Marshall

Fire & Rescue Chief, California  
Governor’s Office of Emergency Services

*Source: Foreword, “California Emergency Firefighting Water Supply”*

#### Sources:

Bullets 1–3: Marshall white paper (V6, Apr 2026), Table 1 p. 53; pp. 51, 52, 55, 68 (Cal Fire data).

Bullet 4: Mydans, “Fighting Fire of the Future,” NYT, Oct. 29, 1993.

# The Scale of the Wildfire Problem in Canada



## Alberta & Canada Wildfire Crisis

- Jasper 2024: 1 firefighter killed, 358 of 1,113 structures destroyed; 25,000 evacuated; \$1.3B insured
- Fort McMurray 2016: 2 deaths during evacuation, (\$9.9B, 3,200+ structures) and Slave Lake 2011 (400+ buildings, 15,000 evacuated, no direct fatalities reported)
- Alberta 2023: 1,088 fires burned 2.2M hectares in a single season
- Canada 2023: 8 firefighters killed, 15M hectares (7× average); 232,000 evacuated; 120 days at peak preparedness



Slave Lake wildfire devastation, 2011. Photo: Colette Derworiz / Global News.

### Sources:

CatIQ (July 2025); IBC; Government of Alberta; Alberta Wildfire; UNDRR; Jain et al. 2024 (npj Climate); Public Safety Canada.



# The Core Problem

## Water Supply

- Wildfires and city-edge fires need lots of water, non-stop
- Hydrants often fail in the worst fires
  - Power goes out, pumps stop
  - Pipes and infrastructure get damaged
  - During major incidents, most water supply infrastructure can't handle large strains of draw on the system
  - Underground infrastructure becomes compromised due to impacted areas

## The Result

- Fires spread out of control
- Crews are forced to back off homes they could otherwise save

## *The Key Point*

Supply of water to the fireline is the limiting factor.



# Traditional Water Sources

## The Usual Tools

- Fire hydrants - the main system in towns and cities
- Water tenders - trucks that haul water in
- Helicopters and air tankers - drops from above

## Where They Fall Short

- Hydrant infrastructure compromised
- Trucks have limited capacity
- Air drops are short bursts, not a steady flow

***None of these can keep up with a big fire on its own.***



# Other Water Supply Options

## Expanded Toolkit

- Pumps that draw from pools, lakes, and ponds
- Cisterns and underground storage tanks
- Portable above-ground reservoirs
- Dedicated high-pressure systems

## Limitations

These options help - but each one is local, or limited in how much water it can move.

None of them solve the real problem for large, catastrophic wildfires along the WUI: moving big volumes of water across long distances, for hours on end.



# The Critical Gap

## What's Missing

An adequate water supply that has enough volume and pressure to support all responding assets to wildfire events and communities.

### Big fires need:

- A constant flow, not just bursts
- Water moved kilometers
- Adequate volumes and supporting pressures
- Something that works across rough terrain and varying elevations

## The Answer

This is exactly where mobile hose systems come in.

*They turn any lake, river, or pond into a working water supply for the fire line over tens of kilometers.*



# Mobile Hose Systems

## Portable Water Supply Above Ground

- Large diameter hoses (6"–12")
- Laid out fast across kilometers of ground
- Pumped from whatever water is nearby:
  - Lakes, rivers, oceans
  - Reservoirs or staging tanks
- Systems can be sized to the needs

## The Big Advantage

Any water source can become a high-volume supply for fire crews - even where there are no hydrants at all.

*Think of it as a temporary fire main you can roll out wherever it's needed.*



# How It Works on the Ground

## The Steps

1. Find a water source nearby
2. Drop in high-capacity pumps
3. Roll out miles of large-diameter hose
4. Create a mobile temporary water source
5. Feed multiple emergency response assets at the same time

## What Crews Get

- Steady, high-pressure water
- Flow that lasts for hours
- The ability to hold a line on a big fire

*That changes what's possible in a fight.*



# Who We Are

## Our Origin

*After witnessing the Fort McMurray wildfires and the Calgary/ High River floods, Fire & Flood Founder Terry Raymond built a company designed to move, disperse, and divert water at scale.*



*Fort McMurray wildfire devastation, 2016. Photo: Global News.*



*Flooding devastation in Calgary, 2023. Photo: Calgary Herald.*



# Wildfire Suppression

## Our Patented High-Volume System

- Four hose sizes: 4", 6", 10", and 12"
  - sized to the water flow each job needs
- Multi-kilometer capacity lines
- Sustained flows up to 8500 gallons per minute
- Continuous defensive coverage exceeding one kilometer
- 120-180 meters of perimeter width





# Wildfire Suppression



## What This Lets Crews Do

- Protect homes and towns built next to forests (the wildland-urban interface or WUI)
- Defend power lines, pipelines, and utility corridors
- Protect drinking-water sources, highways, and rail lines
- Refill water tankers and helicopter buckets on the ground - and push the fire back as crews advance
- Create a safe, wetted corridor around the community













# Wildfire: Operational Efficiencies

## How Much Water We Move

- 1 km of high-volume delivery  $\approx$  100 Large Air Tanker drops
- 1 minute per km of run time  $\approx$  1 hour of heavy lift helicopter suppression
- Defensive coverage widths comparable to 30-45 D8 bulldozer blades
- A 12-inch supply line services 433 SPU Rainbird sprinklers at 15 GPM
- Frees aviation, engines, and tenders for other priorities



# Wildfire: Operational Efficiencies



## Freeing Up Agency Resources

- One 80,000 L Mobile Support Tank repurposes 12 min of Bell 212HP flight time (~\$1,080/hr)
- One 80,000 L tank equals 8 × 9,500 L relay tanks, running an SPU layout at 600 L/min for 133 minutes
- Continuous hose supply lets 6 × 3,000 gallon water tenders be reassigned to other priorities
- Preserves aviation, engine, and tender resources for priority assignments



# The Scale of the Flooding Problem in Canada



*Flooding devastation in High River, 2013. Photo: Huffington Post.*

## Alberta & Canada Flood Crisis

- Alberta 2013: 5 deaths, 100,000+ evacuated (80,000 in Calgary, all 13,000 in High River); \$5B+ damages, \$1.7B insured
- Toronto July 2024: 100mm of rain in 3 hours; \$940M in insured losses
- Quebec Aug 2024 (Hurricane Debby remnants): \$2.8B insured across 55 communities; province's costliest weather event ever
- 1.5M Canadian households (~10%) highly exposed; ~\$800M in insured losses every year, with BC's 2021 atmospheric river severing every major highway out of Vancouver



# Flood Mitigation

## What We Deploy

- Modular flood barrier systems
- Sustained barrier pressurization pumping
- Controlled diversion of floodwaters
- Active dewatering
- Real-time monitoring sensors



# Flood Mitigation



## What We Protect

- Transportation corridors
- Municipal assets
- Communities, infrastructure, and heritage sites
- Private assets

## How We Operate

- Integrated within ICS under agency direction



# Flood Mitigation

## Rapid H<sub>2</sub>O Flood Barriers



## Flood Barriers



## Water Gate Flood Barriers





# Flood Mitigation: Operational Efficiencies

## Scale of Deployment

- Modular barriers plus sustained pumping replace ~1,500–15,000 sandbags per deployment
- Eliminates hundreds of labor hours typically required for sandbag filling and placement
- Reduced environmental impact

## Deployment Track Record

- Flood barriers installed:
  - ~3 km rapid deployment
  - ~24 km pre-planned deployment
- Over 72 flood operational days with 150+ response personnel

# Rescue (REMS)

## Keeping Responders Safe

- Certified rescue-and-safety teams on standby for responders
- Medical and technical rescue support on-site





# Proactive Disaster Planning & Rapid Deployment

## Planning Ahead

- Custom-built, service-backed plans for each town or region we work with
- Detailed site maps so crews know exactly where to go
- Built around what each agency and community needs to protect
- Integrates with the agency's existing command structure

# Drayton Valley, May 2023





# Drayton Valley, May 2023

## Conditions on the Ground

- Extreme fire weather and a multi-year drought
- Aggressive wildfire behaviour with limited Alberta resources nearby
- Steep terrain rising from the river up to the town

## Our Role

- Dispatched 02:00.
- Advance team on scene 04:00.
- Team Lead with IC by 06:30.
- Perimeter operational at 10:37.
- Fire hit the line at 15:00.
- We had 4 hours and 23 minutes of margin - and the town held.

*Independently reviewed by Wildland Fire Works.*



# How to Work With Us

## How We Work Together

- We extend what your emergency agencies can already do
- We fit into your chain of command, not the other way around
- Planning before disasters strike, fast deployment when they do
- Closes the protection gap where homes meet the wildland
- Helps communities prepare for - and ride out - bigger and bigger emergencies





# Questions?



# CONTACT INFORMATION

Dispatch #: 1-403-600-0044

Toll Free #: 1-833-611-3337

[www.fire-flood.com](http://www.fire-flood.com)



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