
Alberta WUI Program



Background

- Wildland urban interface (WUI) in the past was more of a sprinkler program in AB Wildfire
- Training and development of municipal fire personnel has been haphazard – Boss, Leader, Supervisor, Director/STPS
- AB Wildfire not comfortable with inconsistent standard of training for 1051
- No consistent operating construct for employment of wildland fire, sprinkler operations, and engine operations in WUI

Background

- 2019 OFC / AFCA grant to develop WUI program – 18 months
- 2021 WMB / AFCA grant to develop WUI program – 12 months
- 2022 AEMA / WMB 3-year CGA to Town of High Level and Clearwater County to develop WUI program
- AEMA and WMB co-manage the AB WUI Program
- Commence build of comprehensive training and development program

Vision

- The seamless integration of municipal fire and wildland fire, supported by industry capability, in the conduct of preparedness and response operations, in the wildland and wildland urban interface environments



End State

- A comprehensive developmental system for structural firefighters to ensure safe operations in the wildland and WUI environments, encompassing individual certification at various developmental levels. WUI will become a standardized, recognized, and common skillset amongst Alberta's municipal fire departments



Alberta WUI Program Components

- AEMA/WMB co-management
- Common operating concept
- Alberta curriculum and experience requirements
- WUI Guidelines
- WUI FO/PECC WUI
- Provincial WUI Teams
- Post-season after-action review
- Common doctrine
- Alberta WUI Advisory Committee

Alberta WUI Program Co-management

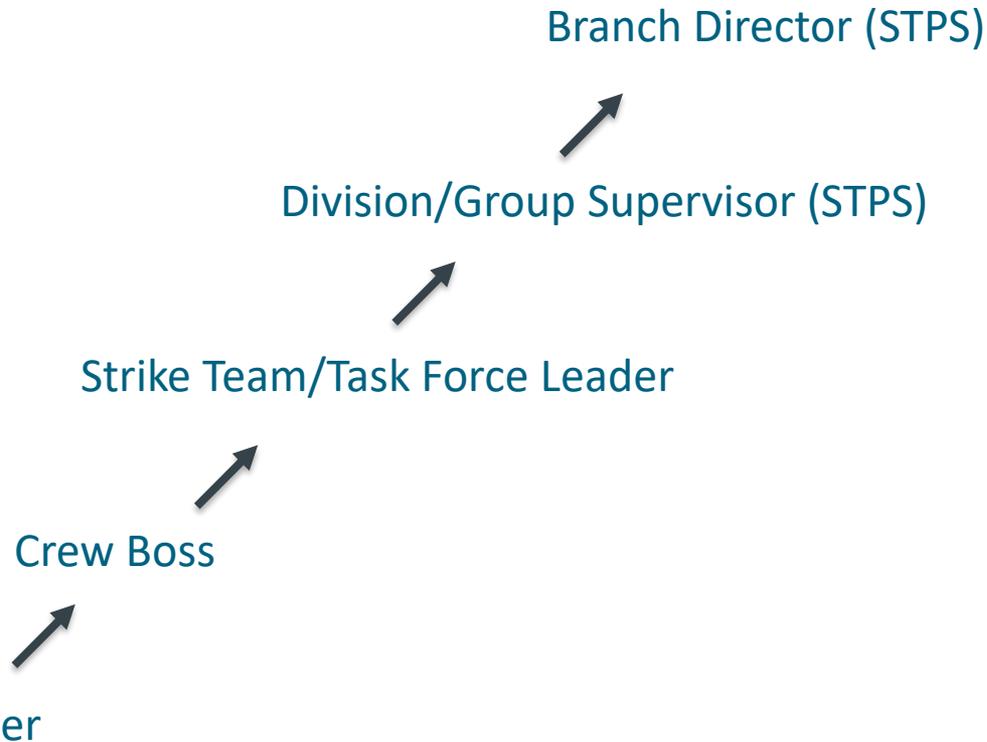
- WMB - Brian Lopushinsky
 - Ben Jamieson, Brian Wog
- AEMA – Bob Ford
 - Keven Thomson, Dean Clark, Tom Harnos

Common Operating Concept

- WUI personnel, primarily municipal structural fire fighters, employing wildland fire techniques, sprinkler operations, and engine operations as part of an integrated response to WUI incidents



Progressive Curriculum and Experience



- Curriculum and training required
- Experience required
- All needs to be developed in the context of a validated operating concept
- Centralized control for standards

WUI Guidelines

- Training standards
- Apparatus standards
- Remuneration
- Policies

2023 Alberta Wildland Urban Interface Guidelines



Alberta

WUI FO / PECC WUI

- Preparedness role prep for hazard season FD visits
- Field support to STPS and impacted muni fire departments
 - Incident ordering, status/check in recorder, specialist support, demob
- PECC sourcing, ordering, tracking, dispatch
- PECC provincial WUI situational awareness
 - Equipment, status, locations, rotations, link to incident, AWCC



Provincial WUI Teams

- Town of High Level and Clearwater County
- Curriculum development
- Primary WUI trainers
- Provincial response resource
- Most highly skilled and experienced WUI practitioners in AB
- Significant leadership resource on incident
- Continually deployed on incident throughout 2023
- Direct and indirect value well outweighs Provincial investment



Post-Season After-Action Review

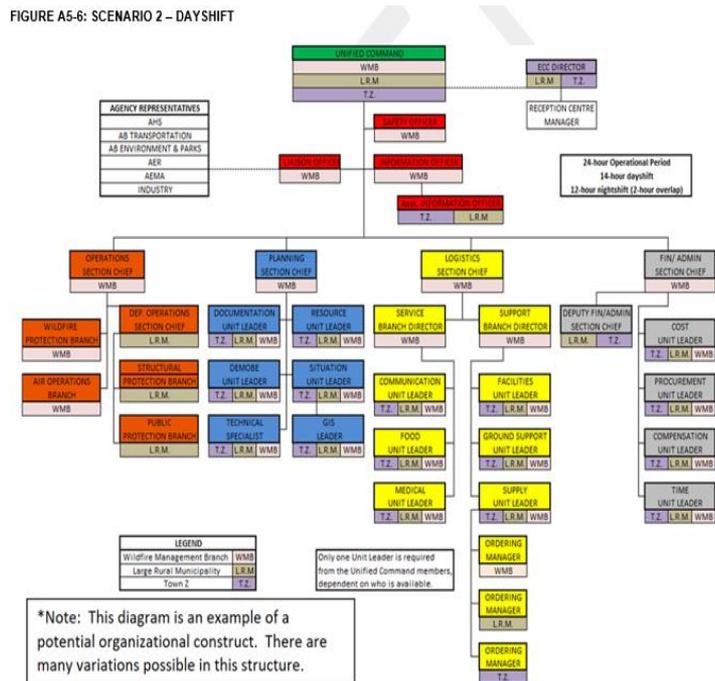
- Conducted Nov 9, 2023
- AEMA - WUI
- WMB – Edmonton, HTC and 10 x Forest Areas
- Provincial WUI Teams
- Senior STPS
- Informed by written submissions from receiving and employed fire departments



Common Doctrine

- Owned by AEMA and WMB
- Delineates structures and options for WUI integration between Alberta Wildfire and Alberta’s municipal and Settlement local authorities
- Unified Command Best Practices: WUI
 - To be re-written as “Coordinated Response Best Practices: WUI” this winter
- Annex in AIMS and attached to WUI Guidelines
- WUI doctrine is part of an AB EM system
 - ICS compliant
 - Component of AIMS
 - Supported by AHIMT and Wildfire IMT
 - Reflects AB perspective on Municipal EM structures

FIGURE A5-6: SCENARIO 2 – DAYSHIFT



Alberta WUI Advisory Committee

- Co-Chairs - Bob Ford, Brian Lopushinsky
- Senior STPS - Rodney Schmidt, Steve Debieenne, Evan Stewart
- WMB - Ben Jamieson, Brian Wog
- AEMA - Keven Thomson, Dean Clark, Tom Harnos
- Provincial WUI Tm Leads and Chief Officers
 - Jared OpdenDries, Colin Moore, Kris Heemeryck, Rodney Schmidt
- HTC - Chris Gosman
- Members at Large – FN and Municipal Chief Officer

AB WUI Advisory Committee Deliverables

- Curriculum development - content
 - Crew Boss, TF/ST Leader, Div/Gp Sup (STPS), Branch Dir (Senior STPS)
- Curriculum development – priorities and timelines
- WUI developmental progression requirements
- WUI Guideline development
- WUI doctrine development
- Training standards and instructor lists – TtT
- After Action Review, observation development, and Lessons Learned
- Interim Development Lists - TFL, Div/Gp Sup, STPS

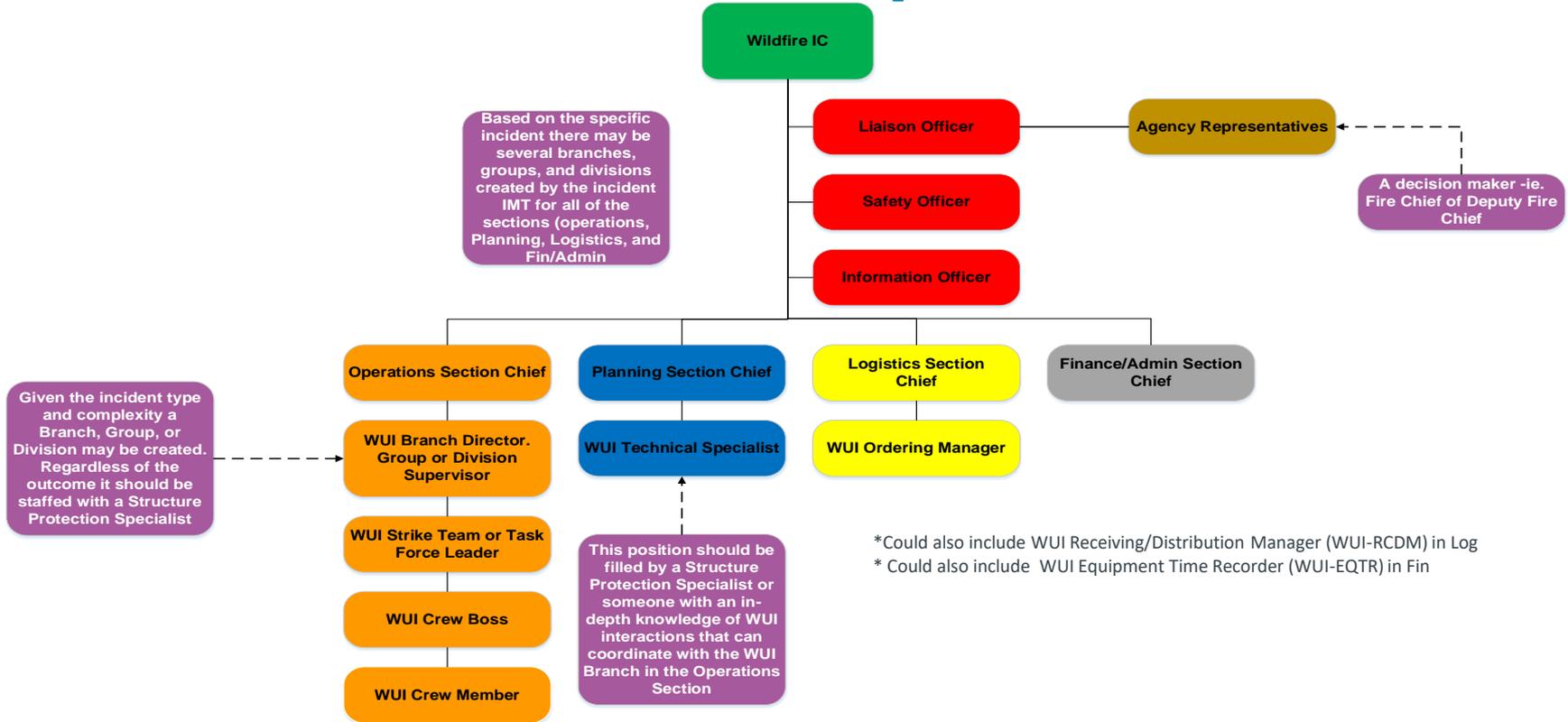
Wildfire Season 2023

- Worst Alberta wildfire season on record
- Most communities under WUI threat ever
- PECC WUI responding to resource requests 29 Apr – 02 Oct
- First deployment of Provincial WUI Staging Areas
 - Cut 20 to 30 hours off deployment timelines as majority southern departments
- Canadian Armed Forces deployment of 6 x T6 Engines to Fort Chip
- PECC WUI moved more apparatus and personnel than previous decade combined
 - Estimate 430 apparatus and 2500 personnel movements
- Program, doctrine, and operating concept all validated
- Other jurisdictions showing interest in AB WUI Program

WUI 2024 proposed changes

- Augmentation program developed, WUI FOs deploying more to incidents to support local authorities and STPS
- Proposal that Forest Areas pick up WUI invoicing from local authorities if in proper unified command or coordinated response

WUI – Coordinated Response



Questions?