

Mount Underwood Wildfire

Recovery Updates & Community Feedback

Bamfield Community Meeting – April 30, 2026



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that we are gathering today on the traditional and ancestral territories of Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

We want to express our gratitude for the opportunity to be here today and to recognize the deep knowledge and ongoing connection that Huu-ay-aht has to these lands and waters.

As we come together today, we do so with respect for that relationship and a commitment to working in partnership and learning from one another.



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Agenda

- Introductions
- Event Recap
- Review of Impacts
- Agency Updates
- ACRD Reflection
- Community Feedback
- Questions and Answers



Introductions



- Huu-ay-aht First Nations
- Ditidaht First Nation
- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD)
- Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)
- Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)
- Island Health
- BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS)
- BC Wildfire Service (BCWS)
- Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT)
- BC Hydro
- Mosaic Forest Management



Mt. Underwood Wildfire In Review

Fire Began on August 11, 2025

Fire was officially declared out on December 8, 2025, and burned a total of approximately 3,518 hectares

Bamfield Main was closed between August 11 and October 24, 2025 for a total of 74 days

KM's 7.5 to 14 on the Bamfield Road – both sides of the road impacted



Impacts



Utility failure
Power outage
Road closures

Food losses
Generator fuel
Travel expenses
Tourism
Business

Air quality
Access to
health services
Psychosocial
Hygiene
Well-being

Soil erosion
Ecosystem
Biodiversity
Eco-cultural
Watershed

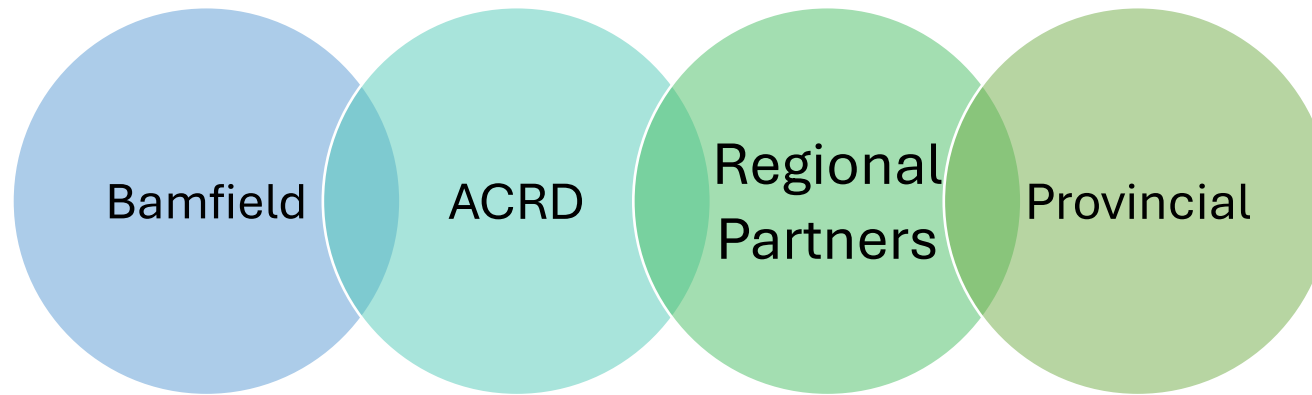


ACRD Emergency Response



Inter-Governmental Collaboration





Multi-Agency Response: Working together when it matters the most

- Community Members
- Bamfield Volunteer Fire Department
- Bamfield Community Emergency Program
- Bamfield Marine Science Centre
- Uchucklesaht Tribe Government
- Comox Valley Regional District
- Strathcona Regional District
- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- City of Nanaimo
- City of Courtenay
- GetSet Solutions
- Metro-Vancouver
- RCMP
- Telus

- BC Wildfire Service & regional fire departments
- Samaritan's Purse
- Alberni Valley Emergency Support Services
- Mosaic Forest Management
- BC Hydro
- Tsawak-qin Forestry
- MLA Mid Island
- Health Emergency Management BC
- Island Health / BC Emergency Health Services
- Alberni Valley Search and Rescue
- Ministry of Transportation and Transit
- Ministry of Jobs, Economic and Growth
- Ministry of Emergency Management
- Ministry of Forest

BC Wildfire Service

- Most rapid growth occurred in the first 48 hours
- 144 wildland firefighting personnel were deployed at the peak of the fire
- 11 helicopters deployed for bucketing
- 19 units of heavy equipment for fire break construction
- Structure protection crews assigned to China Creek Campground and Marina



Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)

RESPONSE

- Coordination, support and provincial leadership
- Maintains situational awareness across agencies
- Activates the Provincial Regional Emergency Coordination Centre
- Supports SOLE, Alerts and Orders
- Staff deployment
- Financial assistance

RECOVERY

- Community recovery planning
- Local Recovery Period
- Staff deployment
- Multi-agency coordination
- Post-disaster needs assessment



Ministry of
Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

Health Services

HEMBC
Health Emergency
Management



BCEHS | BC Emergency
Health Services



MOSAIC

F O R E S T M A N A G E M E N T





BC Hydro



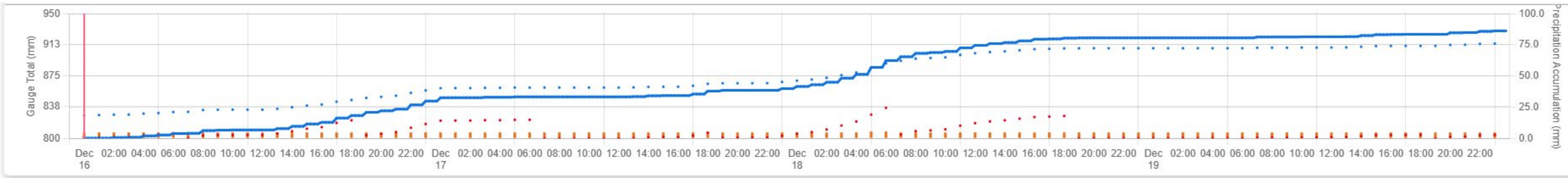
Ministry of Transportation & Transit



Ministry of Transportation & Transit

- 0 road impacting events observed between Dec 2025 & March 2026
- Implementation of enhanced monitoring during weather events based on observed and forecasted wind and rain intensities

Dec 16-19 2025



Mt Underwood (63022)

- Precip Gauge Total (Precipitation Gauge)
- Precip Hourly (Precipitation Gauge)
- Precip Hourly (Sum) (Precipitation Gauge)
- Precip New (Precipitation Gauge)

Reflection & Lessons Learned

Identify a local representative who can understand community needs and liaise with the EOC

Coordinating and unifying communication and key messages across agencies is important

Designate a location in the community as an information hub for updates

Inter-agency and multi-jurisdictional collaboration is the best practice; most effective ≠ most efficient

Pre-existing relationships and pre-established trust improve collaboration and response efforts

Emergencies impact annual work plans, operations, and workplace stress

It is important to provide regular updates, even when there isn't any new information

Having in-person community town hall meetings is effective



Community
Feedback

Questions?





Gratitude and Acknowledgement



Thank you

