



FIRE

EMERGENCY

Canada Deployment Update #1 – Aug 17

NEW ZEALAND



Kia ora koutou

Greetings from Canada where we are midway through the first rotation of our deployment to British Columbia.

It's tough work in rugged country, but fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable.

Our people are spread far and wide. We've got teams as far north as Dease Lake and as far south as Grand Forks, almost 1800km away.

We're staying in a mixture of camps, hotels and rented accommodation. Surprisingly the camps are proving the most popular because everything is laid on there.

The hours are long, but the temperatures have been relatively cool, up to the high-20s

in some places during the day and down to 2 degrees Celsius at night.

Some of our crews are doing initial attack as new fires break out; others are doing sustained attack on larger fires.

There's a lot of digging, back burning and dry-firefighting techniques that we don't use in New Zealand. They also used fixed wing aircraft to fight fires here which we don't do at home.

The biggest difference is the scale of everything. There are currently about 560 fires burning in the province and the biggest are much bigger than anything we encounter in New Zealand. Some of them are expected to burn for months.

CANADA ON CAMERA



Here's a team made up of two Mexican, two British Columbian and one Australian firefighter posing for a photo.



A few local well-wishers thanking our crews for their hard work.

MESSAGES OF THANKS – Here are a few of hundreds of thank you messages coming in from around the world

“Stay safe everyone, you have a huge job ahead. Thoughts and prayers for all”

“Wow guys and girls, having just flown into Vancouver/ Calgary today we are amazed by the smoke from the BC fires. Good luck with your mission, I’m pretty sure the Canadians will be grateful for your support.”

“Fantastic stuff NZ fire fighters, stay safe out there”

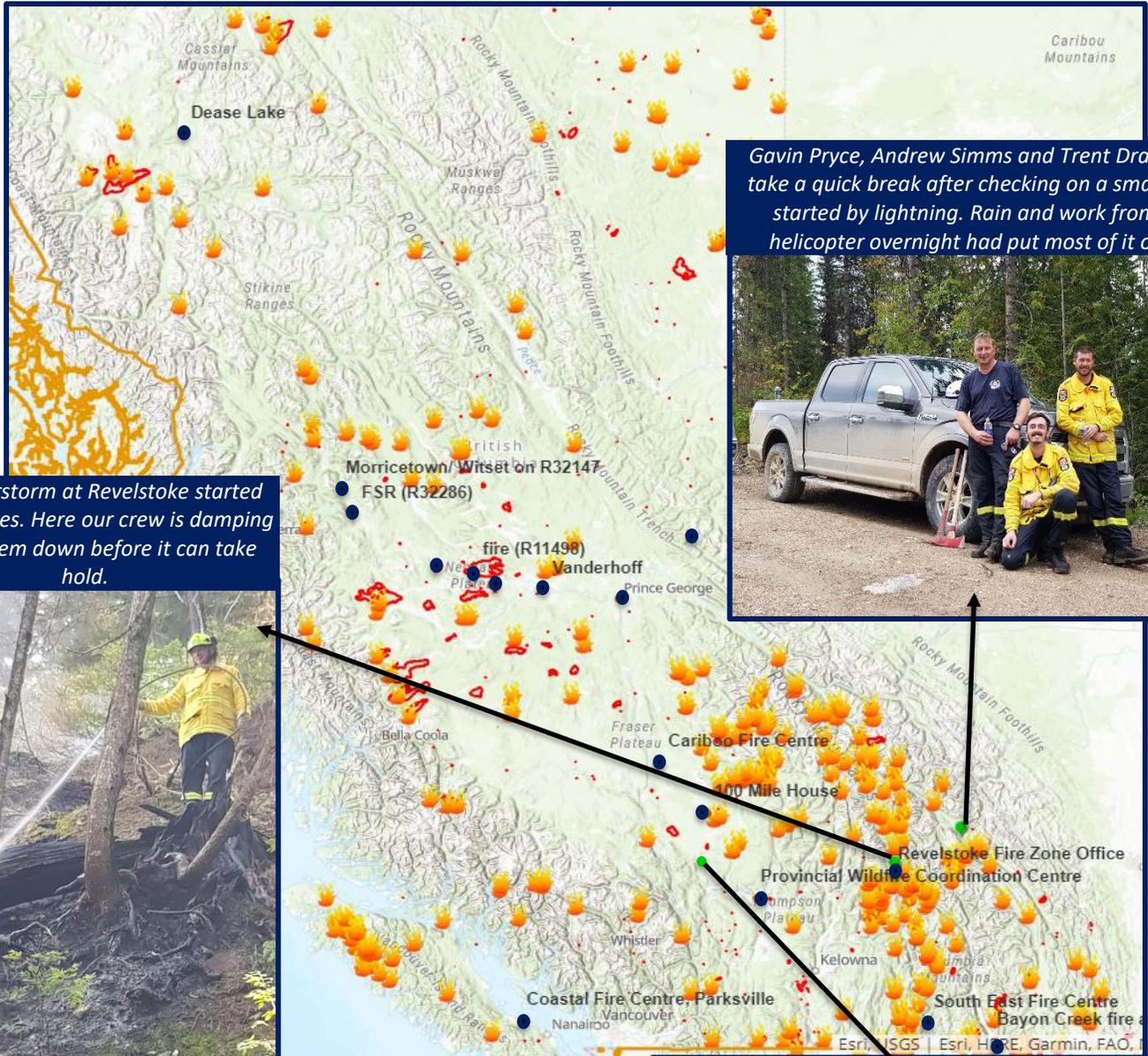
REACTIONS

Feedback both at home, and in Canada, to the deployment has been overwhelmingly positive. Over here they love the “just get the job done” attitude of both us and the Aussies. Of course, we do it better.

Below are links to a couple of reports about the deployment:

- [Dozens of international firefighters arrive in BC, CTV News, Vancouver](#)
- [Southern firefighters heading to Canada](#)

PERSONNEL MAP



Gavin Pryce, Andrew Simms and Trent Dravitzki take a quick break after checking on a small fire started by lightning. Rain and work from a helicopter overnight had put most of it out.



A thunderstorm at Revelstoke started multiple fires. Here our crew is damping one of them down before it can take hold.



National Manager Rural, Kevin O'Connor checks in with Wayne Anderson, Nick Yates and Manuka Davenport.

MAP INFORMATION

This map shows the fires currently raging in Canada and as you can see, there are a lot!

The small black dots represent where we are stationed as of August 16th.

We can now share photos that will automatically upload to this map and are represented by the green dots.