

## **Penticton Fire Department set to re host Wildfire Training Symposium**

(Penticton BC – April 29, 2019) – Over a three-day period starting May 3 through to May 5, 150 firefighters from 25 jurisdictions across BC will join their peers from the City of Penticton Fire Department in attending a second annual Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Training Symposium.

The inaugural event was held in the spring of 2018 and proved such a success that the Penticton Fire Department has decided to continue the training annually. Designed to help improve knowledge of and response to wildfires, the symposium will involve scheduled training exercises involving supervised burning and the active and visible deployment of fire service personnel, fire apparatus and aircraft in the Campbell Mountain, Sendero Canyon and West Bench neighbourhoods.

Residents and visitors to the Campbell Mountain, Sendero Canyon and West Bench areas are advised that the exercises and training performed is being carried out by knowledgeable experienced professionals, with safety and property protection being the top priority.

“The Penticton Fire Department is pleased to be hosting this valuable wildfire exercise again in 2019. We wish to thank all Penticton residents in advance for their patience and understand while this essential training is carried out”, said Penticton Fire Chief, Larry Watkinson. “The knowledge gained through this event benefits not only our local firefighters and the residents they protect, but also the crews and residents from the nearly 12 dozen BC communities who also respond to events involving wildland urban interface conditions”.

Over the course of the three day event, residents may observe the following:

- 150+ Firefighters working a simulated Wildfire Event.
- Unfamiliar Fire Trucks on Roadways.
- Firefighters in your neighbourhood, and community.
- Smoke on Campbell Mountain.

Additionally, the Parking lot at Campbell Mountain and next to Rotary Park will be closed for Command and Control Staging locations. Local roads will not be closed.

-30-

### **Contact:**

Larry Watkinson  
Fire Chief  
Penticton Fire Department  
250-490-2309