

SECOND DEPLOYMENT OF CANADIANS HEAD TO AUSTRALIA TO BATTLE WILDFIRES

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) has coordinated a second deployment of highly trained staff as part of a Canadian contingent from agencies across the country that will head to Australia to support the efforts of Australian crews battling unprecedented wildfires.

“Canadian agencies are always ready to lend a hand, whether it’s for a neighbour or someone around the world,” said Kim Connors, Executive Director, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre. “Canada has called on Australian firefighter four times since 2015, and we are pleased to be able to answer their call during this devastating fire season.”

The CIFFC, based in Winnipeg has received an official request for additional assistance with the ongoing wildfire situation in Australia. Canadian agencies were quick to respond and on December 19, a second contingent of 30 highly qualified personnel from Wildland Fire Agencies across Canada will gather and head to New South Wales, Australia for a 38 day deployment. This is the second group of Canadian Fire Managers to respond to the Australian call for assistance. A group of 21 staff from a variety of agencies left Canada on December 3, for a 38 day deployment.

The Canadians will assist with a variety of roles within the Incident Management team, including roles in command, aviation, planning, logistics and operations. Crews come from Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Yukon, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The first group of 21 Canadians left December 3, and are already working in New South Wales.

When they arrive, the team will be assigned to fire operations in New South Wales, where they will spend over a month providing expertise and relief for the Australian crews that have been working almost non-stop on raging wildfires.

The CIFFC provides operational forest fire management services to member agencies that will, by agreement, gather, analyse and disseminate fire management information to ensure a cost effective sharing of resources.

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