

67 ADDITIONAL WILDFIRE FIGHTING PERSONNEL HEADING TO AUSTRALIA

The National Council for Fires and Emergency Services, National Resource Sharing Centre in Melbourne has once again requested assistance from the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre. These new resources will be deployed to the States of New South Wales and Victoria. There are already Canadian personnel in both States as well as in South Australia. It has been an unprecedented fire season in Australia with severe fires along the east coast some starting as early as August. Since late December additional large fires have erupted in southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria and more recently in Australian Capital Territory. Fire conditions continue to be challenging.

- On February 6 Canada will send 11 fire management specialists to New South Wales for a 30-day deployment. The specialists from British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Parks Canada will fill roles in operations, planning, and aviation.
- On February 6 Canada will deploy 40 professional wildland fire fighters and 2 fire management staff to Victoria for a 31-day deployment. A 20-person crew from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island combined, and one from Quebec will be involved in direct suppression work on fire incidents within the state.
- On February 9 Canada will send 14 fire management specialists to Victoria for a 31-day deployment. The specialists from Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia and Parks Canada will be filling incident management team roles in command, operations, planning, logistics and aviation.
- With this latest deployment, personnel from all Canadian Fire Management Agencies will have now participated in sending Canadian wildland fire personnel to Australia under the Arrangement between the Department of Natural Resources of Canada and Emergency Management of Australia on the Exchange of Wildland Fire Management Resources.
- In total, Canada will have provided 238 firefighting personnel to Australia since the beginning of December to three separate States.
- The first deployment of Canadians, that left Canada in December has now returned home. The next groups of specialists are scheduled to return on February 5 and 10.

- Canada has called on Australian fire specialists in 2015, 2017 and 2018, along with fire fighters in 2017, and we are proud to now provide support to them during this devastating fire season.

The support of our partners has been vital to the effectiveness of our wildfire preparedness and response, and these partnerships through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) are essential for success. The CIFFC, based in Winnipeg, is a not-for-profit corporation owned and operated by the federal, provincial and territorial wildland fire management agencies to coordinate resource sharing, mutual aid, and information sharing. The Centre coordinates domestic mutual aid agreements as well as international arrangements and Memoranda of Understanding, including the current arrangement with Australia.

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For more information, contact Melanie Morin, Information Officer at 819 441-7006 or mmorin@sopfeu.qc.ca