



Emergency Response Assistance Canada
Assistance d'intervention d'urgence du Canada
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Message from ERAC President, Spencer Buckland



The Fort McMurray wildfires have had an impact on Response Teams and Plan Participants across Canada. Whether directly affected or not, emergency response crises cause us to pause and reflect on how organizations are prepared and how important it is to have trained, assessed and approved Response Teams ready and on hand, in times of crisis.

ERAC provides safe, timely, effective, sustainable, cost effective flammable liquids and gas emergency preparedness and response assistance to all Plan Participants. We had one activation in Fort McMurray and I am pleased to report that our Response Team successfully and safely mitigated a dangerous situation involving LPG tanks that were involved in the fires.

From the accounts of the Response Team, the incident site was one for the books. Despite being located in the city of Fort McMurray, the wildfire's destruction resulted in all the attributes of a remote incident. The air was thick with ash chemical fumes from the burning surroundings. The team contended with many unknown and there were possibly dangerous cylinders and containers surrounding the site.

I am incredibly proud of the work that our trained, assessed and approved Response Teams provide for our Plan Participants. The team assigned to Fort McMurray completed their job professionally and safely, despite intense conditions.

At the end of the newsletter we've included ERAC's key performance indicators. This year, there have been 37 notification-only calls to the response centre with another six calls resulting in ERAP activation and response to LPG or Flammable Liquids incidents. I'm proud to report that all these incidents were safely mitigated, maintaining our injury-free record since 1997.

Also in this edition of our newsletter, we are sharing more news on how ERAC and industry are supporting and training Canadian firefighters. You'll read about our new LGP Firefighting Training. Plan Participants will have the opportunity to sponsor firefighters for upcoming LPG training. Industry can also donate propane for the training events, set to commence later this year.

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome our newest trained, assessed and approved ERAC response team: Iron Horse Calgary. In addition, three other new teams will complete training and assessment in the fall. These new approved teams are being brought on board to expand and enhance our response capabilities on behalf of our Plan Participants.

Finally, I'd like to recognize the great work of Jean Stirling, who decided to retire after eight years of dedication to ERAC as our corporate administrator. Jean begins a new chapter in her life and all of us here at ERAC will miss her and wish her the very best.



Jean's retirement dinner

Regards,

Spencer Buckland MLT, MALT, QM/OE, CRSP
President
Emergency Response Assistance Canada (ERAC)