

## Wildland Fire Terminology USA vs. Canada

The document is not intended to be a complete list of the terms used by Canadian and American wildland fire management agencies. Those terms marked with an asterisk (\*) have definitions in the Canadian Wildland Fire Glossary, however, most would be considered “slang/jargon” and could vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction within each country.

Term (US)	Term (Canada)	Meaning/Additional Comments
3/4"	5/8", Econo, or Toy Hose	Fireline hose used for water delivery.
8 Line (aka Medical Incident Report)	Medical/Medevac Plan	Procedures used for reporting a medical emergency.
Aluma Gel	Petrogel	Fuel additive gelling agent.
ASM	AAON*	Person responsible for coordinating aircraft to deliver retardants or suppressants on a fire.
Assets	Values at Risk*	Resources or values that have worth. Fire suppression priorities are often guided by these values
ATV	Hagglunds, Sherpa's, etc.	All-terrain vehicle (usually on tracks) to move personnel to/around the fireline.
Blaster		Person that blows stuff up.
Bone Pile	Mopping Up*	Mopping up any heavy fuels that have not burned.
Bump		Term used for digging line and each individual is responsible for clearing their line.
Bump		Moving people from one area to another.
Cache	Warehouse	Facility for accessing fireline equipment.
Castellanus Clouds	Altocumulus Clouds	Type of cloud.
Chinking Line	Digging Handline	Indirect attack on the fireline.
Clamshell	Clamshell	Used for radio batteries.
Contained, Controlled, Out	Stage of Control*	Varies by agency in Canada and describes the stages of control of the fire.
Copy	Check	Understood message on the radio usually “check, check”.
Copy	Roger	Understood message on the radio usually “roger, roger”.
COW		Cell on Wheels
Cripple Cut	Step Cut (felling)	Tree harvesting term
Critical Burn Period		14:00-17:00, can be longer in the northern boreal.
Cubie		5-gallon portable water container.
Dolmar		Chainsaw gas and oil in separate compartments (combi can).
Extended Attack	Sustained Action*	Actions taken to contain and extinguish the fire.
Fire Size Up	White Message	Quick/dirty = quick white.
Fireline	Guard*	Strategically planned barrier (manually or mechanically constructed) intended to stop or slow the rate of spread. Same standards; down to mineral soil and approximate width of 12-18 inches.
Food Box		Food for firefighters.
Forester Nozzle	Hanson Nozzle	Type of nozzle used to deliver water to the fireline.
Fuel Free	Fuelbreak*	An existing barrier or change in fuel type that acts as a buffer to fire spread so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled. Can be referenced by a class size in accordance to fuel height.
Fuel Tender	Bowser	Self-contained, mobile re-fueling system.



Term (US)	Term (Canada)	Meaning/Additional Comments
3-Way	Gated Wye*	A three-way hose line accessory permitting two lines of hose to be taken from a single supply line.
Go Backs		Any Additions.
	Dozer Guard	Fire guard built by dozers and other heavy equipment/
Hang Tough		Hold up/stay where you are.
Hardline	Hose Reel	
Helmet	Hard hat	Personal protective equipment (PPE) worn on a person's head.
Hot Saw	Feller Buncher	Piece of logging equipment used to cut down and stack timber.
Hotshots, Jumpers, Rappel Crews (National Crews)	Type 1 Crews (generally)*	Minimum 18 and maximum 20 people.
IA Ready	Loaded Patrol*	An aerial patrol where the aircraft is carrying an initial attack crew while conducting detection flights.
Inline T	Thief (Water Thief)	Smaller line off main hose line to allow for drawing off water to fill back pump pumps or attach ¾" hose for mop up operations.
IRPG	N/A	Stands for Incident Response Pocket Guide.
Jillpoke		Branch from a tree overhanging a road.
Knee Board		Aviation tactical dispatch information intended for pilot use.
Large fire		100 acres in timber and 300 in grass.
LAT	Large Airtanker	E.g. RJ, BAE
Lawn Dart	Smokeyjumper, B3/B4 Helicopter*	A firefighter who travels to wildland fires by fixed-wing aircraft and parachute
LCES	LACES	A safety system used by wildland firefighters to protect themselves from entrapment in free-burning wildfires and other fireline hazards. Stands for Lookouts, Anchor points, Communications, Escape routes, and Safety zone.
Lead Plane	Birddog*	An aircraft carrying the person (Air Attack Officer) directing the firebombing action on the fire.
Logging Slash	Waste	Debris created from logging.
Masticater	Mulcher	Type of heavy equipment used to clean up a fire guard and mulch fine to medium fuels.
N/A	Birddog Wail*	Siren from a Birddog aircraft signaling all clear to ground personnel to return to the fireline.
N/A	Birddog Yelp*	Sired from a Birddog aircraft signaling intended or imminent drop to ground personnel and to clear the drop zone.
N/A	Crossover	Temperature (in Celsius) is higher than the relative humidity.
Panels		Marker for bucket drop.
Piss Pump/Bladder Bag/ Fedco	Wajax Bag	Backpack pump used by firefighters to deliver water.
Plumbing	Hose Lay*	Lengths of fire hose and accessories beginning at the pump and ending at the fireline.
Pre-po	Alert*	Firefighting resources are kept ready for deployment on short notice often with an associated dispatch time.
PSD	Ping Pong Machine	Aerial ignition device used to deliver ping-pong like spheres filled with potassium permanganate that ignite and are used to manage fires.
Pumpkin	Bladder*	Portable, collapsible, soft material container, transported externally by helicopter and used to transport water.
Pumpkin Time	Legal Down	Time in which a non-IFR equipped aircraft must legal land for the night.
Recon Flight	Recky	"Going to have to recky it." "Let's take a recky."

Term (US)	Term (Canada)	Meaning/Additional Comments
Rehab	Reclamation	Process of “rolling back” dozer guard created during fire containment operations.
Resupply		Ordering items that they need to sign out from cache after being on a fire.
Rig	Truck	Type of vehicle.
Road Guard	Guard	Use of roads intended to stop or slow the rate of spread.
Rx	Prescribed burn*	The deliberate, planned and knowledgeable application of fire objectives.
Sack Lunch	Bagged Lunch	Lunch for personnel.
Safety Briefing	Safety Briefing (incident only)	Information provided at the morning briefing to cover known safety concerns, forecasted weather observations and fire danger potential.
Scoopers	Airtankers/Water Bombers	Aircraft that skim lakes to deliver water to the fire.
SEAT	Single Engine Airtanker	E.g. Fireboss
Severity	Preparedness Request	Term used to describe the request used by US fire agencies. Often a financial code.
Size-up Report	White Message, Assessment, Quick White	Form used to provide fire information to the area/dispatch office to aid in decision making and resourcing of fires.
Sleeping Pad	Foamy	Mat used for sleeping on.
Snag	Snag, Widowmaker, Chicot	Dead top portion of a standing tree that has the potential to break off and injure a person.
State Resources	Type 2 Crews (generally)*	Minimum 18 and maximum 20 people. Type 2 are sustained action forces that can't be broken down into small crews. Type 2 IA can be broken down into smaller crews and have higher qualifications than the Type 2 crews.
Stocking Hat	Toque	Worn on top of a person's head to keep them warm.
Supplies		Fireline equipment, water, food, etc.
Support Water Tender		Water roads, fill tanks.
Tactical Water Tender		Usually only fire department.
Tail Numbers	Call Signs	Used with aircraft and many agencies in Canada use the aircraft registration for radio communication.
Tankers	Water Tenders*	A vehicle used to transport water for a fireline to fill portable relay tanks and thereby provide a continual supply of water.
TFR = Temporary Flight Restriction	Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)*	Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is a type of Notice to Airmen (NOTAM). A TFR defines an area restricted to air travel due to a hazardous condition, a special event, or a general warning for the entire FAA airspace.
Tie-in	Meet Up	Term to meet somewhere.
Tone It Out		Radio signal that gets everyone's attention for a smoke check
Torch Machine/Torch Ship	Helitorch*	An aerial drip torch slung, and activated from a helicopter.
Trash Pump	BB4 Pump	Large volume, stationary pump,
Trunk	1.5" (Reducer for 1.5" to 1")	Water line reducer used in hose lays.
Turn Down	Right to Refuse	Situation where an individual has determined they cannot undertake an assignment as given and are unable to negotiate an alternative solution.
Type 1 Helo	Heavy Helicopter*	15-plus passenger, seats up to 25,000 lbs. external load (E.g. Crane, Chinook, Blackhawk).



Term (US)	Term (Canada)	Meaning/Additional Comments
Type 2 Helo	Medium/Intermediate Helicopter*	Intermediate Helicopter: 5 to 8 seats, up to approximately 2,500 lbs. external load (E.g. Heuy (204), 205, 212, 407, A-stars).
Type 3 Helo	Light Helicopter*	1 to 4 passenger seats, up to approximately 1,500 lbs. external load (E.g. Ranger, EC120).
VLAT	Very Large Airtanker	(DC-10)
Water Drops	Action (Used in reference to aerial water application by rotor wing)	"Take action on South Line"
Waterdog	Ghosts	Visible areas that look like wisps of smoke.
Wet Line		Area in which there is no handline dug but area is wetted down.
WUI Firefighting		Lots of information in the IRPG and what to do with structures regarding sites, tactical challenges/hazards, defensible vs. non-defensible, etc. WUI responsibility varies province to province.
	Break	Blaring of the radio channel/ usually "break, break".
	DTA	Danger Tree Assessment
	Flip	"We can flip you in to there." Used commonly for getting flown by rotor wing.
	Jewelry	Water handling hardware for progressive hose lays/shiny stuff (Hose Fittings).
	Machine	Almost all references mean a helicopter.
	Stick-o-batteries	Similar to the 24 pack of AA.
	Stillwell	Slingable water bag for suppression; blivet.
	Sucker Hole	Break in the weather that can allow rotor wing flight/ followed by poor conditions.
	Whack	Group of something. "That is a whack of trees."