



**TO REPORT SMOKE  
OR A WILDLAND FIRE,  
CALL 1-877-698-3473  
(NWT FIRE)**

For more information  
on wildland fire activity,  
visit our website at:

**[www.nwtfire.com](http://www.nwtfire.com)**

**WILDLAND FIRE  
AIRSPACE**

## WILDLAND FIRE AIRSPACE RESTRICTIONS

The area around a wildland fire is usually a hub of aviation activity, where fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft are used to suppress the fire or protect values.

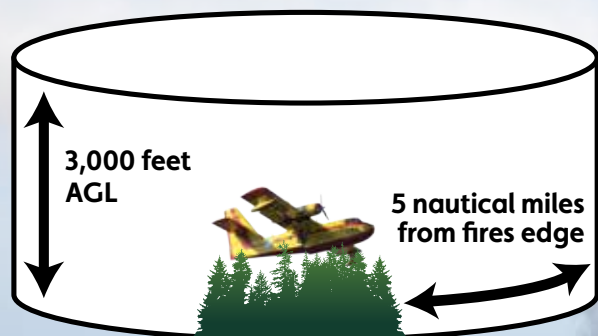
The airspace around a wildland fire is not the place for sightseeing aircraft. Aircraft flying into this area do so at a considerable risk.

Air tankers, helicopters and float planes working the fire can be found anywhere in the area, travelling to and from the fire or picking up water from lakes and rivers.

Often these aircraft are hidden by smoke. Suppression actions are communicated through the use of discrete and unpublished radio frequencies.

Besides contributing to the risk of mid-air collision, the presence of unauthorized aircraft can seriously disrupt the work of the fire suppression crews.

**Section 601.15 of the Canadian Air Regulations (CARs) provides no unauthorized person is able to operate an aircraft over a forest fire area, or over any area that is located within five (5) nautical miles (NM) of one, at an altitude of less than 3,000 feet above ground level (AGL).**



## AIRCRAFT AND WILDLAND FIRE AIRSPACE

Under CARs, the existence of a wildland fire invokes automatic airspace restrictions, regardless of the presence or absence of suppression aircraft.

**Caution**, suppression aircraft may be circling above the restricted airspace.

Before transiting through the airspace, it is extremely important to call on **122.05 MHz AM** frequency to coordinate transiting route(s) with aircraft to remove any possibility of a mid-air collision.

### CONTRACT AIRCRAFT ASSISTING WITH FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES

If an Air Tanker Group is known to be working a wildland fire, entry into the airspace by contracted aircraft is strictly prohibited until contact has been established.

Contact must be made with the Air Attack or Bird Dog aircraft 10 minutes prior to entering the airspace on **122.05 MHz AM** frequency for coordination.

Most Air Attack and Air Tanker aircraft are equipped with Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS). Set your **Transponder to Mode C**, if equipped.

## NOTICE TO ARMEN (NOTAM)

**A Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) does not need to be issued for an airspace restriction to be in effect.**

As outlined in the Canadian Aviation Regulations 601.16, Transport Canada may issue a NOTAM to further expand or restrict the airspace around a wildland fire.

The Minister of Transport, or a delegated representative, may issue a NOTAM increasing or reducing the size of the area as outlined in CARs 601.15(a).

The NOTAM is generated to ensure fire suppression air traffic is isolated from all other air traffic. A number of factors are addressed when a NOTAM is created. These are:

- Proximity to centers of aviation activity, such as airports, float bases, fly-in tourist operations, military airspace and air routes;
- Extent of skimmer aircraft operations, such as pulling from lake(s) greater than five nautical miles from the fire perimeter;
- Large-scale fire with extensive air operations, especially with multiple types of aircraft; and
- Potential for reduced visibilities from extensive smoke.

In many cases, small wildland fires or fires with little smoke can be the center of intense aviation activity.

Pilots are reminded to check NOTAMs before flying during wildfire season.