

# **Taming the Beast**

## **Fort McMurray Wildfire**

**AER and AEMA**

Presentation to the Government of Northwest Territories

March 16, 2017



# Agenda

- » Video - [2016 YMM Strong](#)
- » Fort McMurray
  - Setting the stage
- » Introduction
  - AER
  - AEMA
- » Timeline
- » Lessons learned



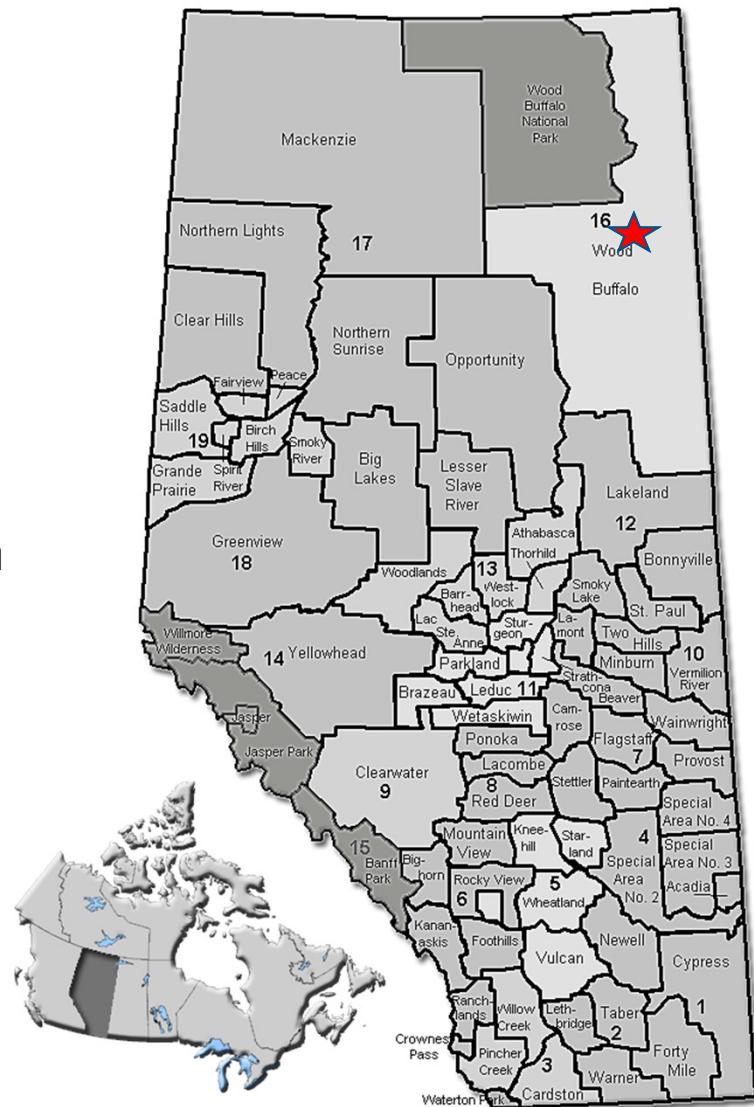
# RMWB

**66 361 km<sup>2</sup>**

## geographic area

**430 km**  
NE of Edmonton

# Fur, Transportation, Salt & Oil



# Rural Municipality of Wood Buffalo



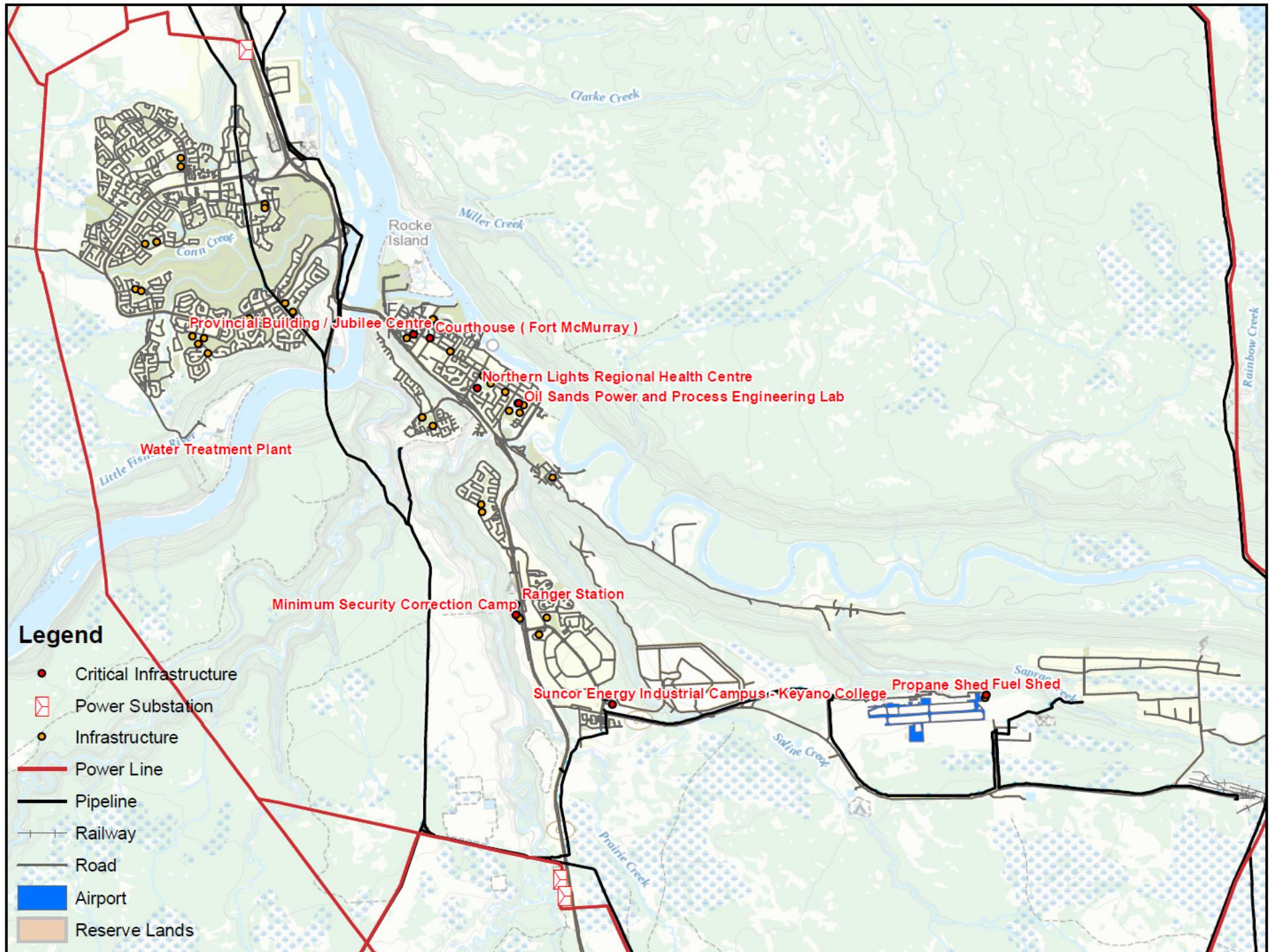
<http://www.rmbw.ca/living/Communities.htm>

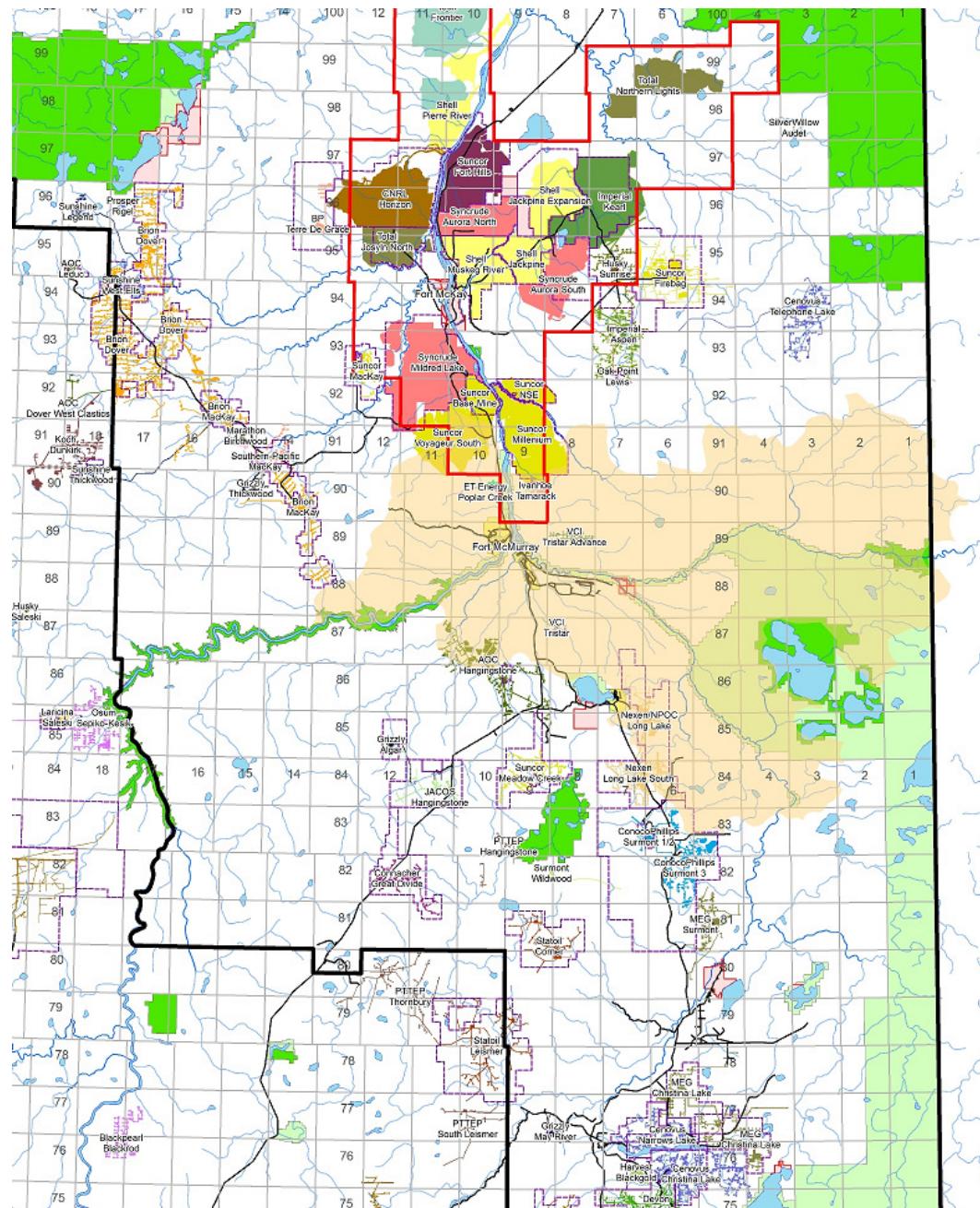
AER 4



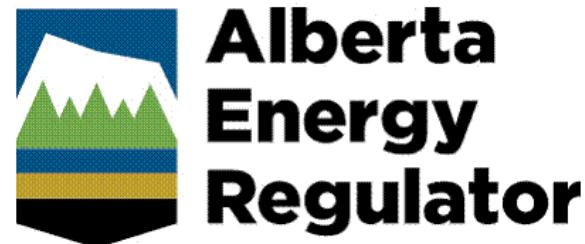


AER 6





# One province. One regulator.



# AER Mandate

- » The Alberta Energy Regulator ensures the safe, efficient, orderly, and environmentally responsible development of hydrocarbon resources over their entire life cycle. This includes allocating and conserving water resources, managing public lands, and protecting the environment while providing economic benefits for all.

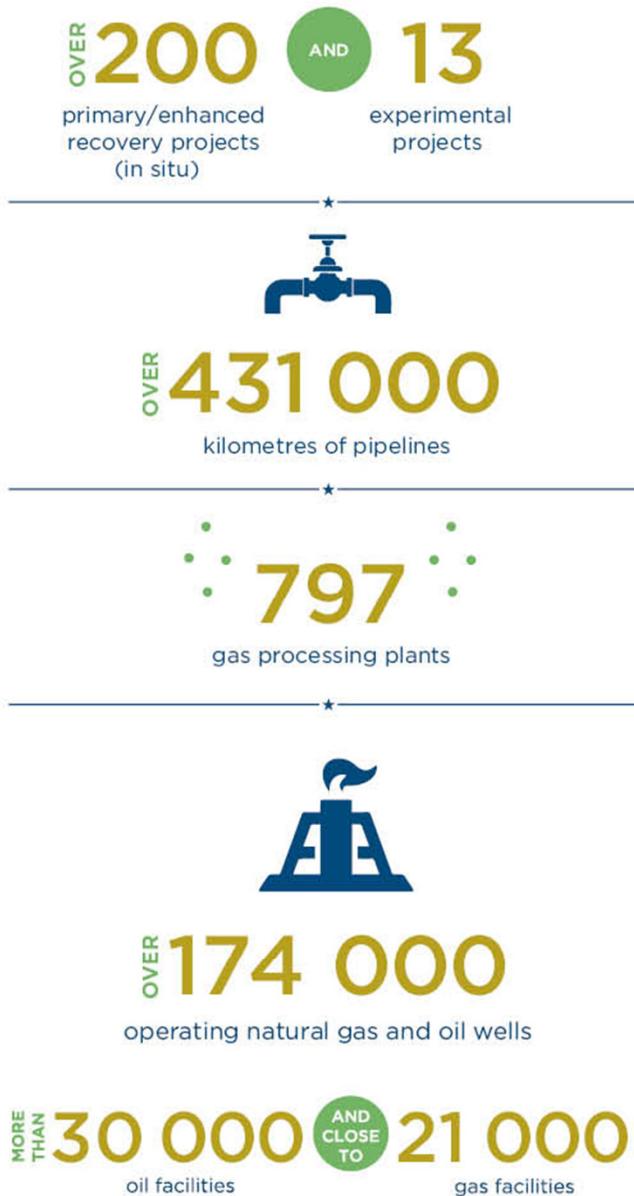
# AER Vision

- » The Alberta Energy Regulator is recognized for regulatory excellence, ensuring the safe, environmentally responsible development of energy resources for the benefit of all Albertans.

# Full Lifecycle

- » The AER oversees all oil and gas, oil sands, and coal development throughout the entire life cycle:
  - From initial exploration, to operation, through to closure including reclamation and remediation.

## The AER Regulates:



# The Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)



*Alberta* Government

*Alberta* Alberta Emergency Management Agency

# Threats

## » Major

- Summer storms
- Petro-Chemical
- Public Health
- Flooding
- Tornadoes
- Fires
- Cyber Attacks
- Terrorism
- Earthquakes

## » Minor

- Public order
- Flash flooding



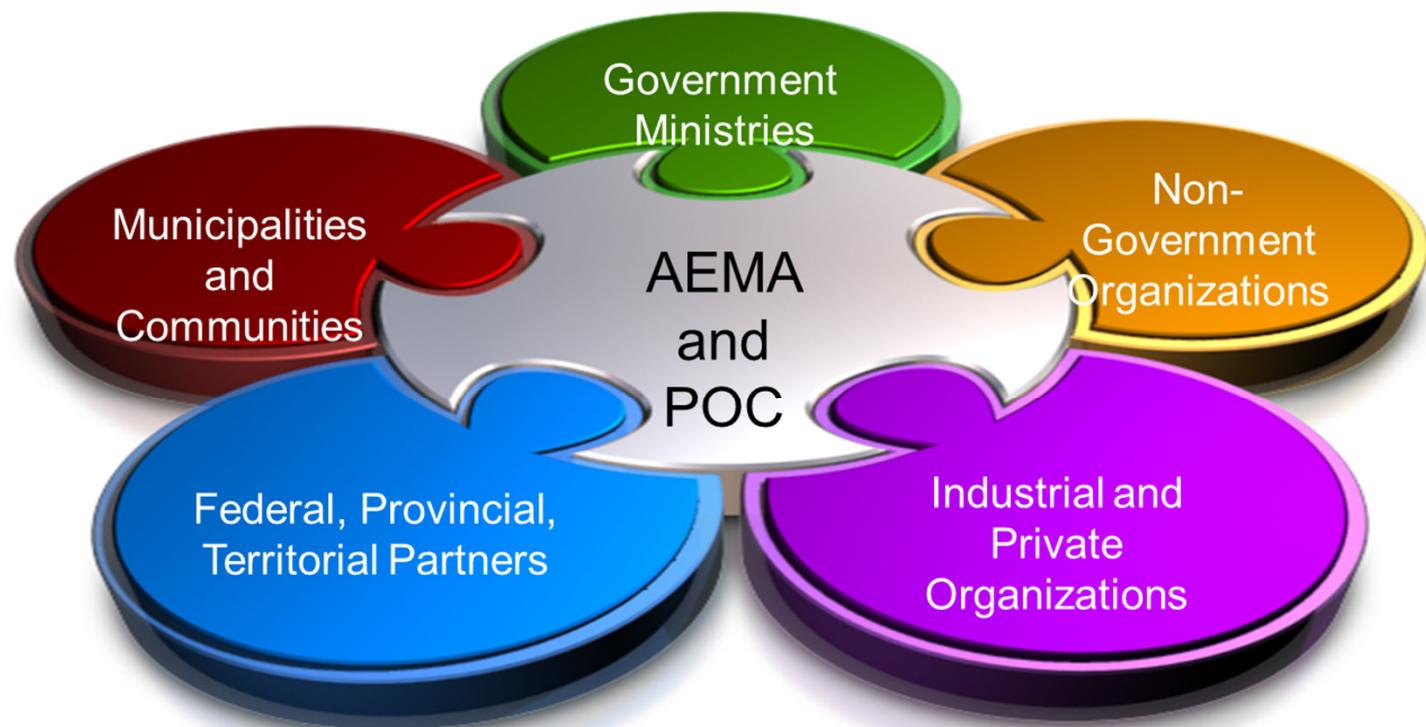
# Response Protocols

- » Local authority or select industry manages the response
- » Government of Alberta (GOA) is responsible:
  - Wildfires
  - Health-related emergency
  - Counter- terrorism incident
  - When the situation has the potential to, or is, disrupting community functioning

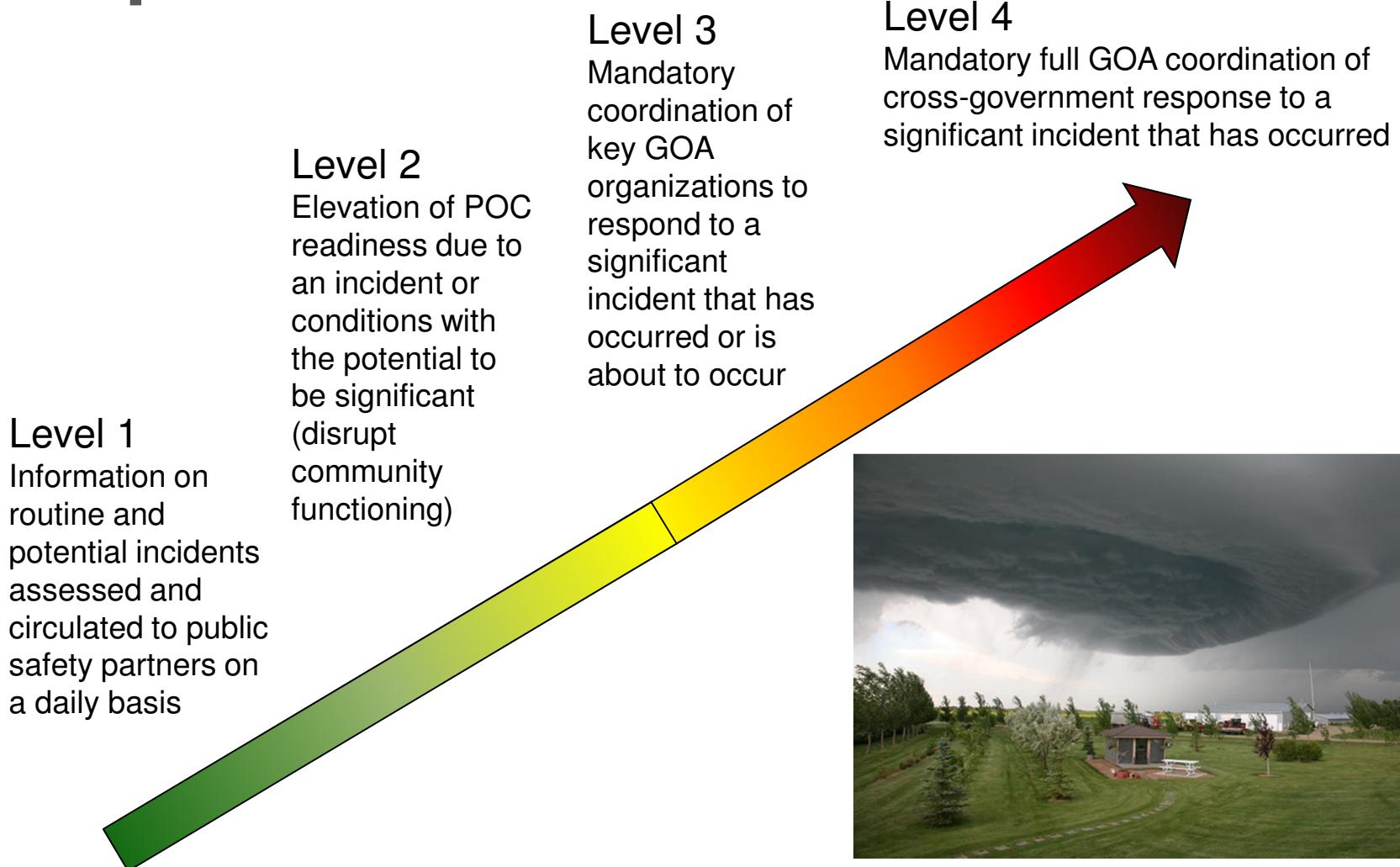
# AB Emergency Management System

- » Lead Agency
- » Support Agency
- » Coordinating Agency
  - AEMA – Provincial
  - Public Safety Canada - Federal

# Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)



# Provincial Operations Centre Operational Levels



# Whole of Society Response

- » AER
- » Public Safety Canada
- » RCMP
- » Department of National Defence (DND)
- » Environment and Climate Change Canada
- » Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
- » Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- » Service Canada (SC)
- » Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
- » Oil & Gas Industry Partners
- » Municipality/Community
- » NGO Organizations
- » Canadian Red Cross
- » ATCO Gas and Electric
- » Retail Council of Canada
- » Public Works Association
- » West Jet & Northern Air
- » Post Secondary Institutions
- » Canada Revenue Agency
- » NAV Canada
- » Service Industry
- » Social Media

# Involvement in FMM Response

## » AER's role

- Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC)
- Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC)
- Provincial Operations Centre (POC)

## » Experiences from FMM wildfire

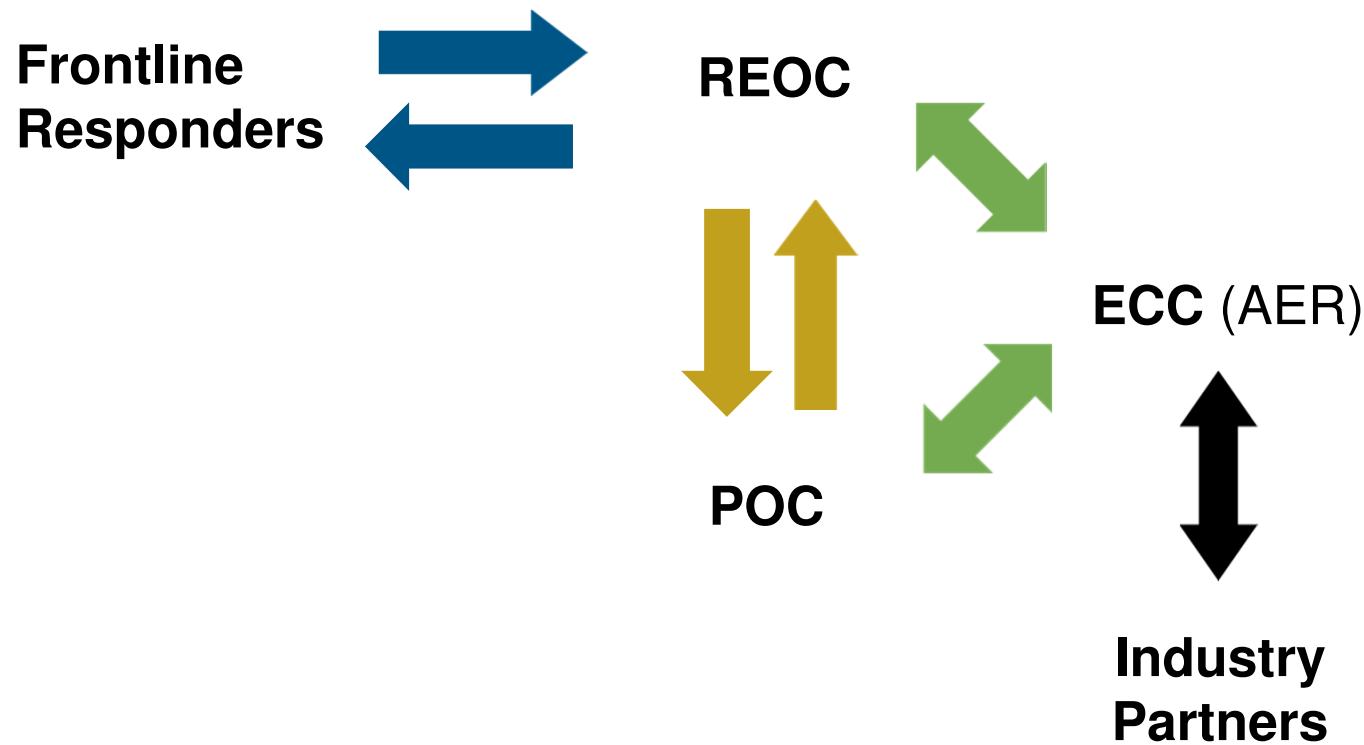


# REOC

## Regional Emergency Operations Centre

- » Local level master coordination and control point for an emergency/disaster response.
  - Responsible for immediate prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

# AER Communication Pathways



# REOC War Room



# AER REOC Experience







AER 27



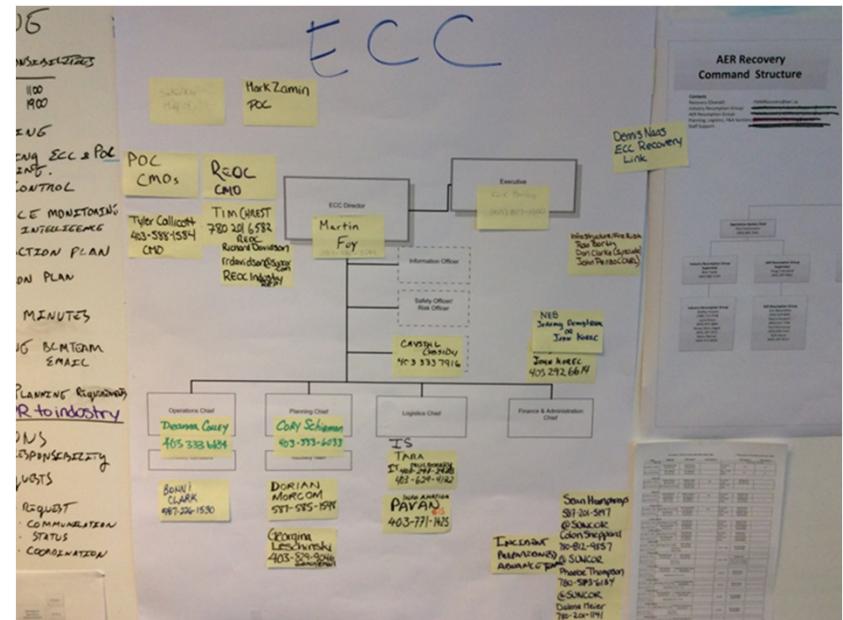




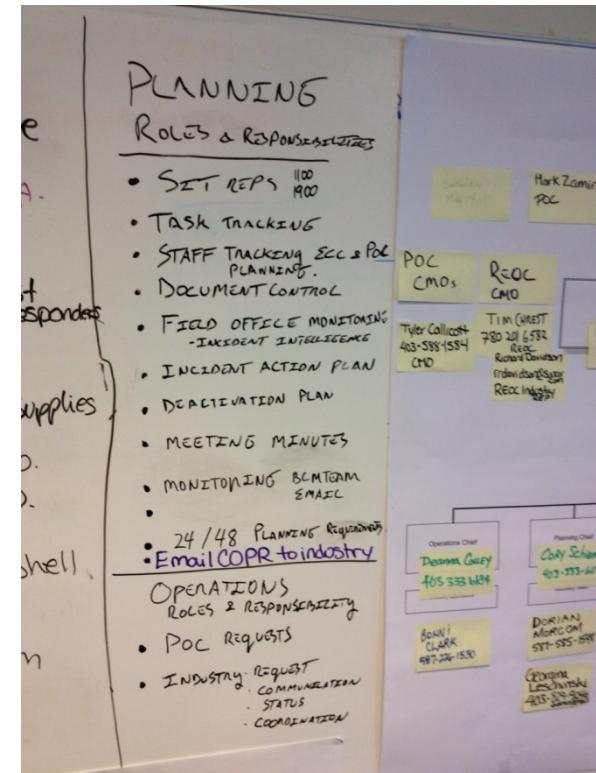
AER 30

# AER - Emergency Coordination Centre

- » Follows ICS model
- » Support the incident
  - » Coordinate incident resource requirements
  - » Facilitate communication
- » Increase effectiveness of AER's response



# ECC Operations



# AER's role at the POC

- » Provide details for internal/external briefings
- » Link between Province and industry
- » Provide maps and asset details
- » Messages for media

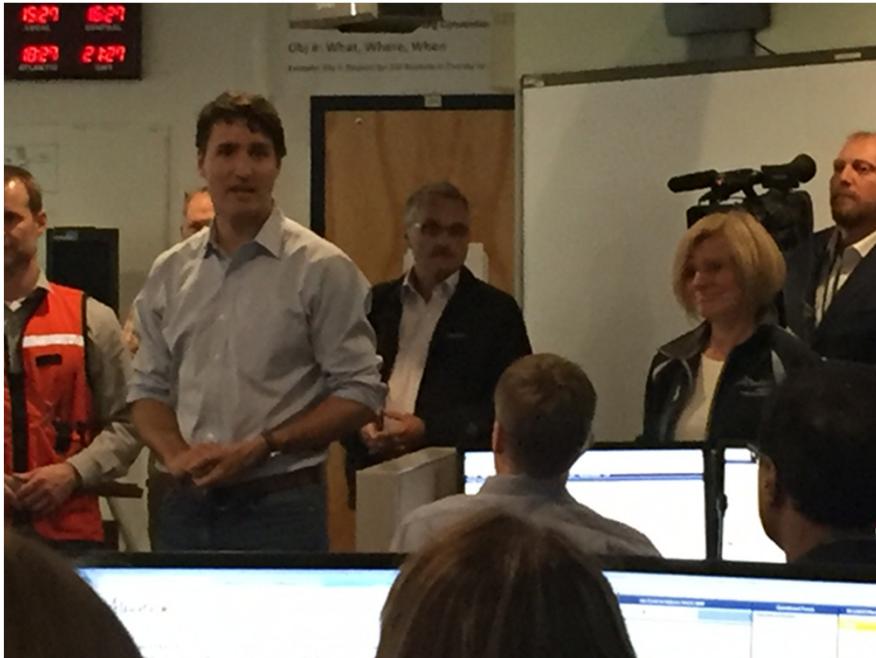
# AER's role at the POC

- » Provide timely updates
- » Ensure follow up is completed
- » Chair/attend meetings/calls with industry
- » Debrief shift change

# Information Sharing

Company	Evacuated Yesterday	Evacuation Planned Today	Remaining Evacuees	Notes
Suncor	2368	3676	2477	
Shell	3044	300		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1800 capacity</li></ul>
IOL/Esso	110	200	0	
CNRL	640	630	400	
Syncrude	600	200	1160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1160 remain while safe</li><li>• 200 non-essential</li></ul>

# At the POC



# At the POC



Some of the AER team

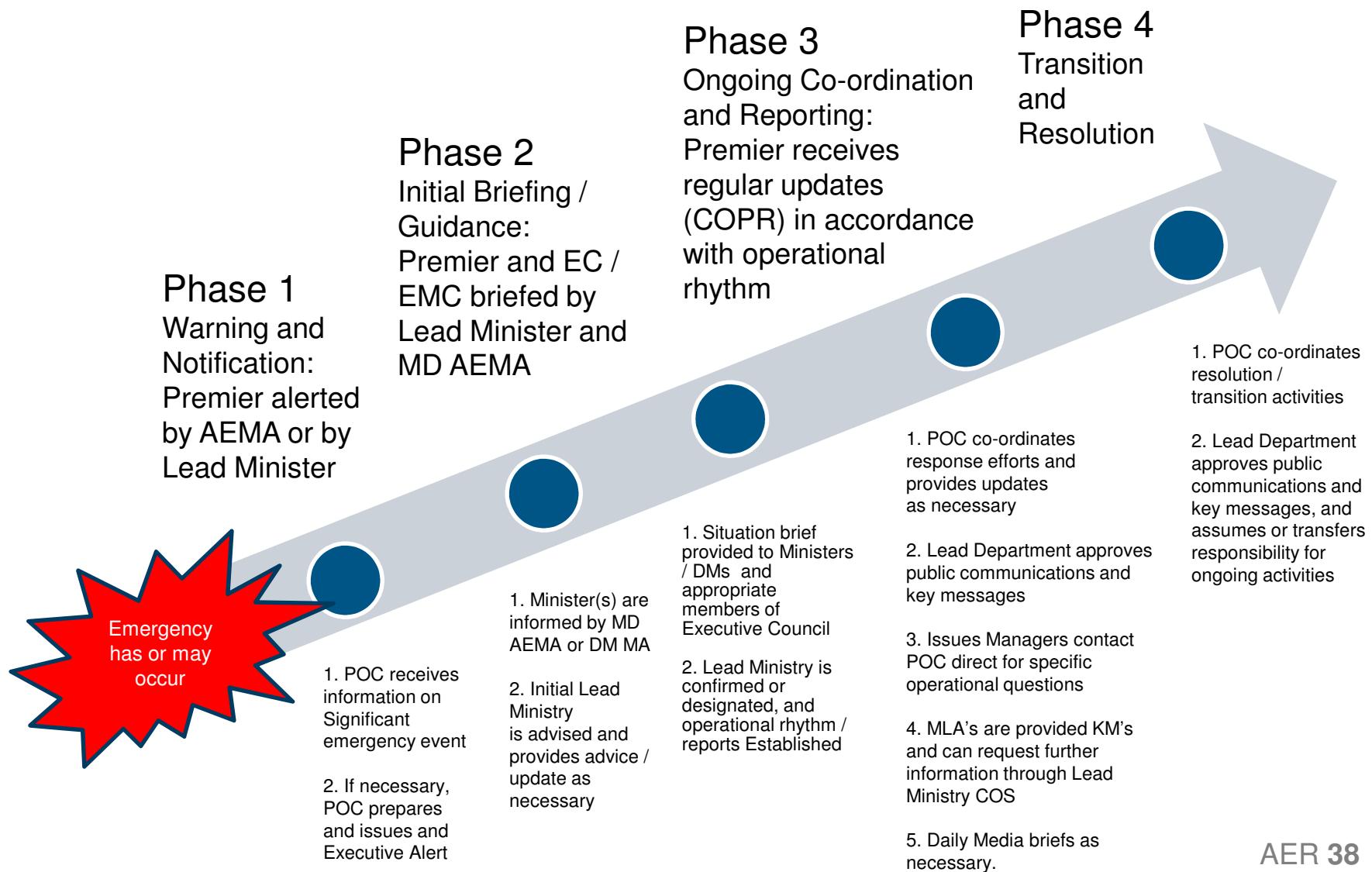


MIC Trailer



Location for daily conference calls

# Response Flowchart



# Timeline Fort McMurray Wildfire



MWF-009-2016 May 02 2016 @1356



MWF-009-2016

MWF-009-2016  
Approximate  
Extent

Centennial  
Trailer Park  
- Mandatory

Gregoire -  
Voluntary

RMWB  
Regional  
EOC

Prairie  
Creek -  
Mandatory

Landfill  
Mandatory -  
Evacuation

### Legend



EOC



Active Wildfires



Reception Centres



Fire Extent

1:50,000

0 0.4250.85

1.7

2.55

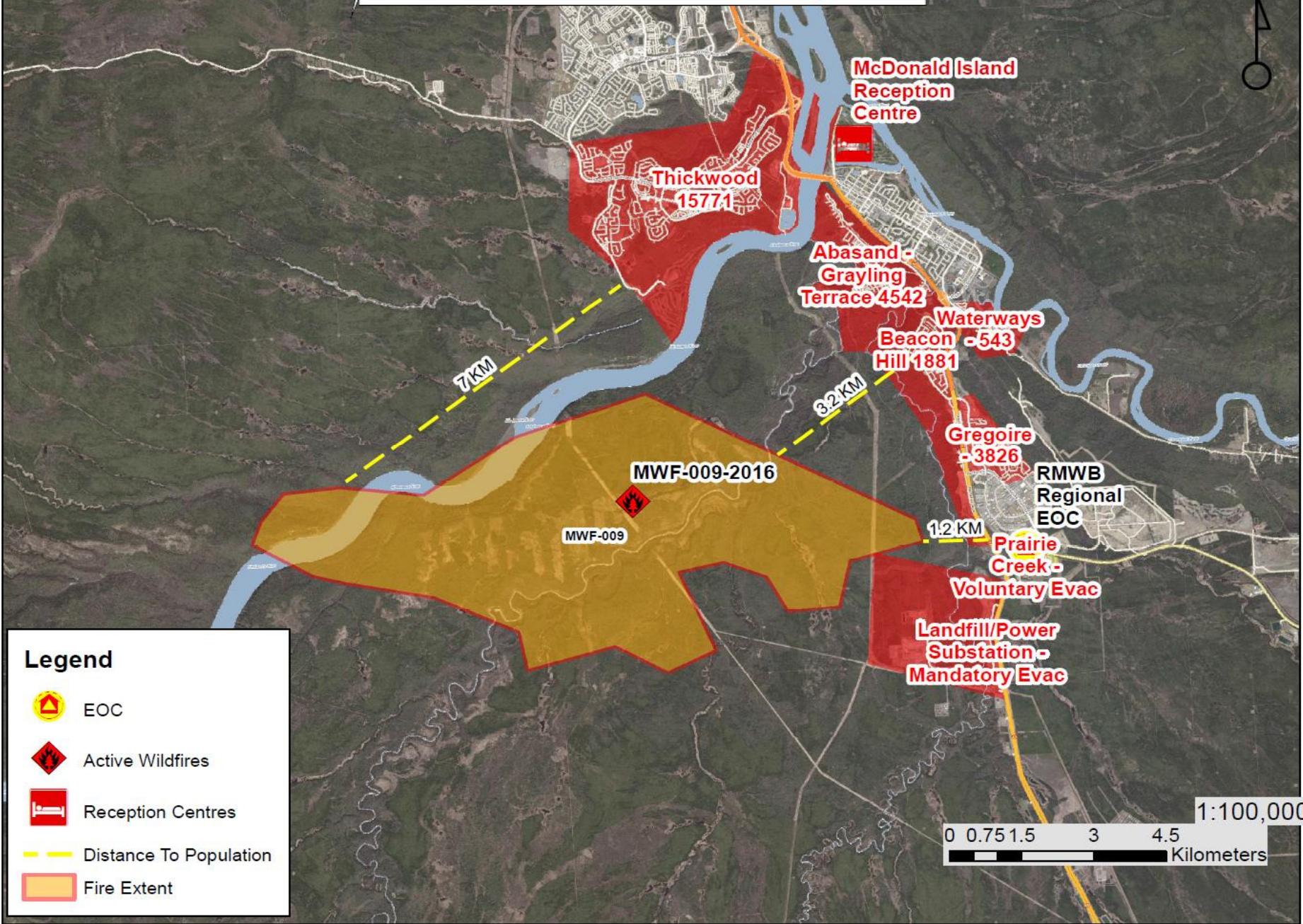
Kilometers

Date: 5/2/2016

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Date: 5/3/2016

# MWF-009 - May 03 2016 @1540



# Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - Noon





# POC Concept of Operations

» Phase 1 – Response –  
**People Safe**

- Priority 1 – Fight/Control Fire
- Priority 2 - Support Evacuations

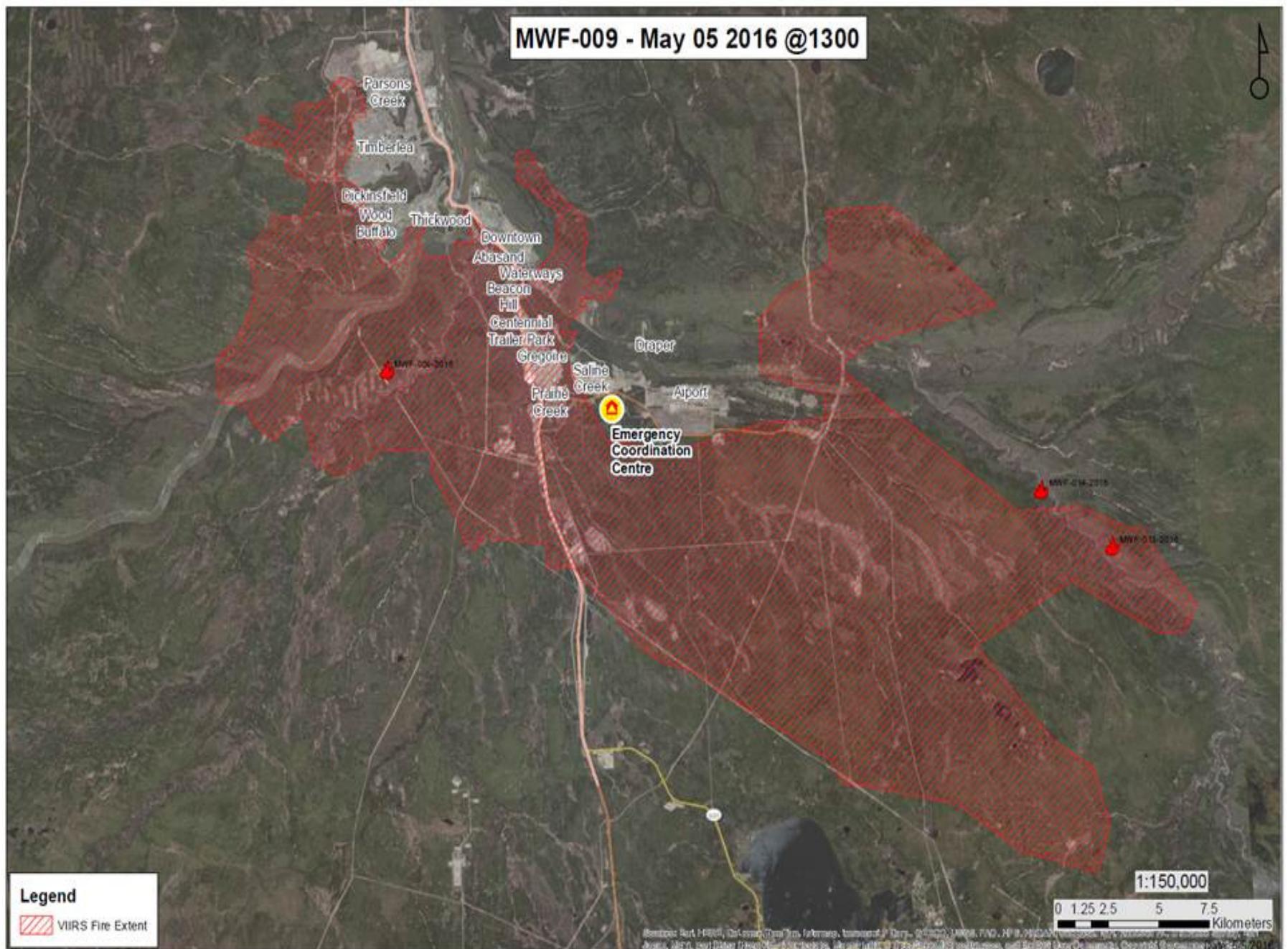
» Phase 2 – Stabilization/Re-entry –  
**People “Home”**

- Priority 1 – Make communities safe
- Priority 2 – Safe and expeditious returns

# POC Concept of Operations

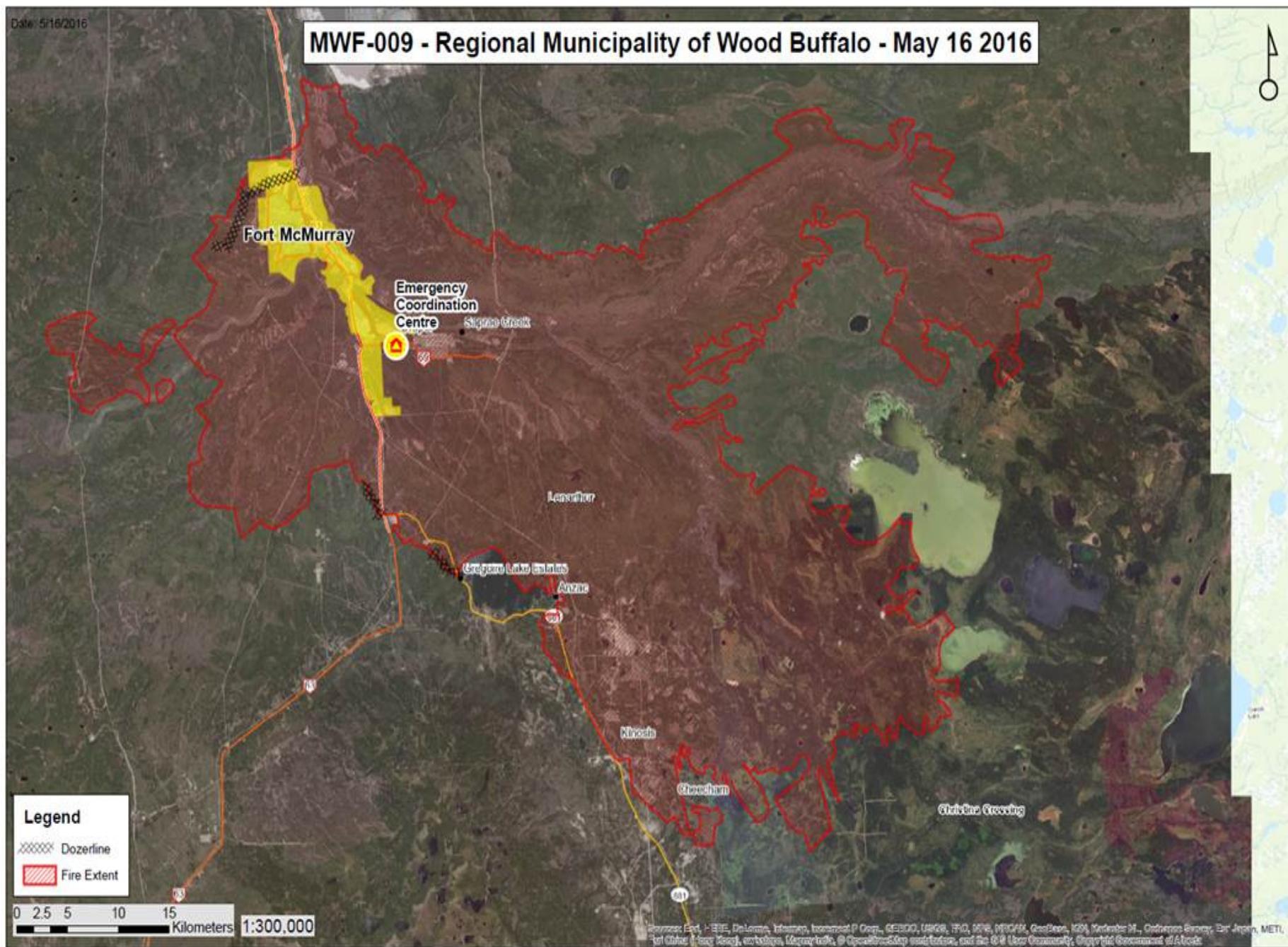
- » Phase 3 – Short Term Recovery –  
**Community Functioning**
  - Priority 1 – Community life support
  - Priority 2 – Medium term Interim accommodations
- » Phase 4 – Medium Term Recovery –  
**Community Rebuilt**
  - Recovery Task Force

MWF-009 - May 05 2016 @1300

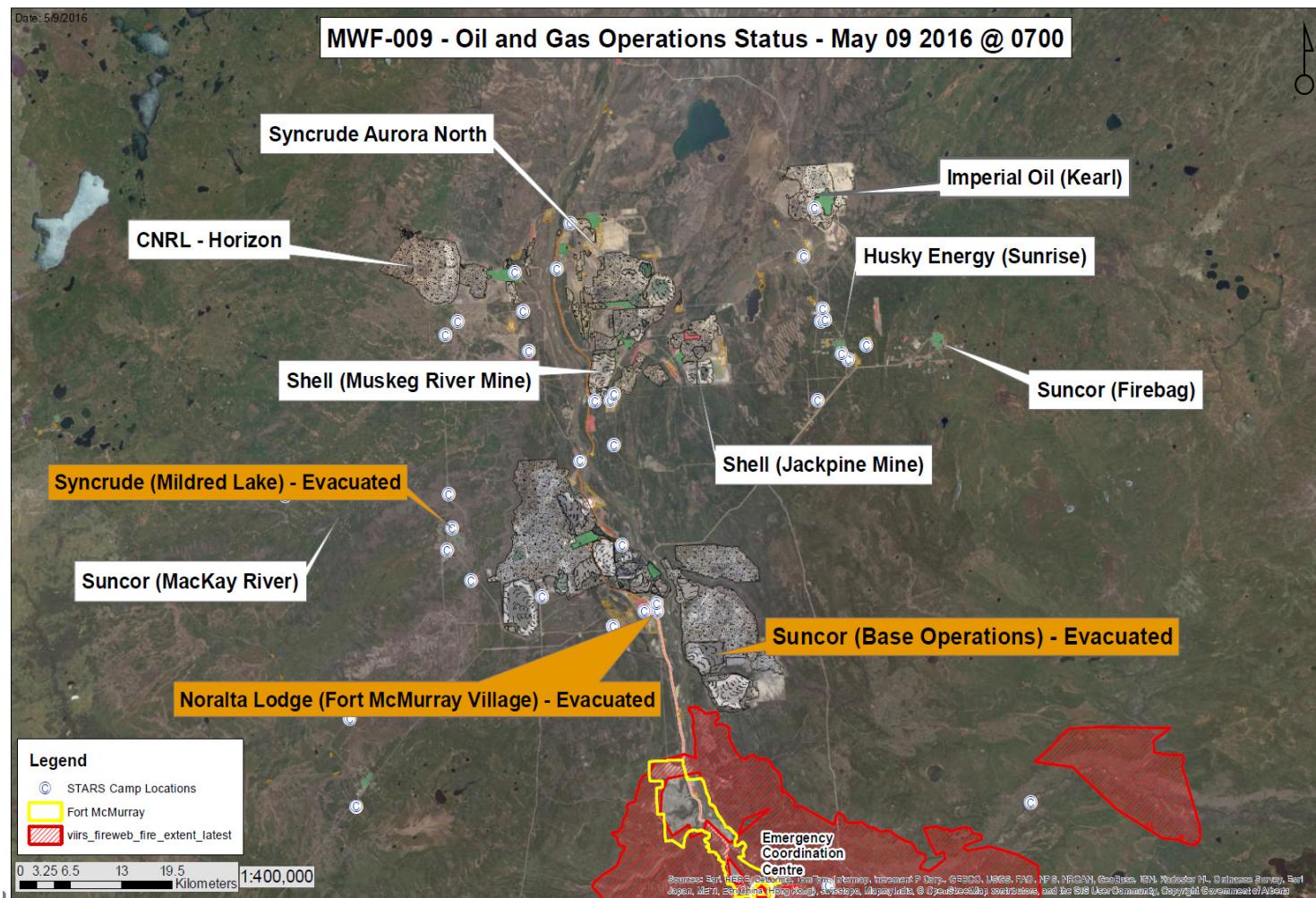


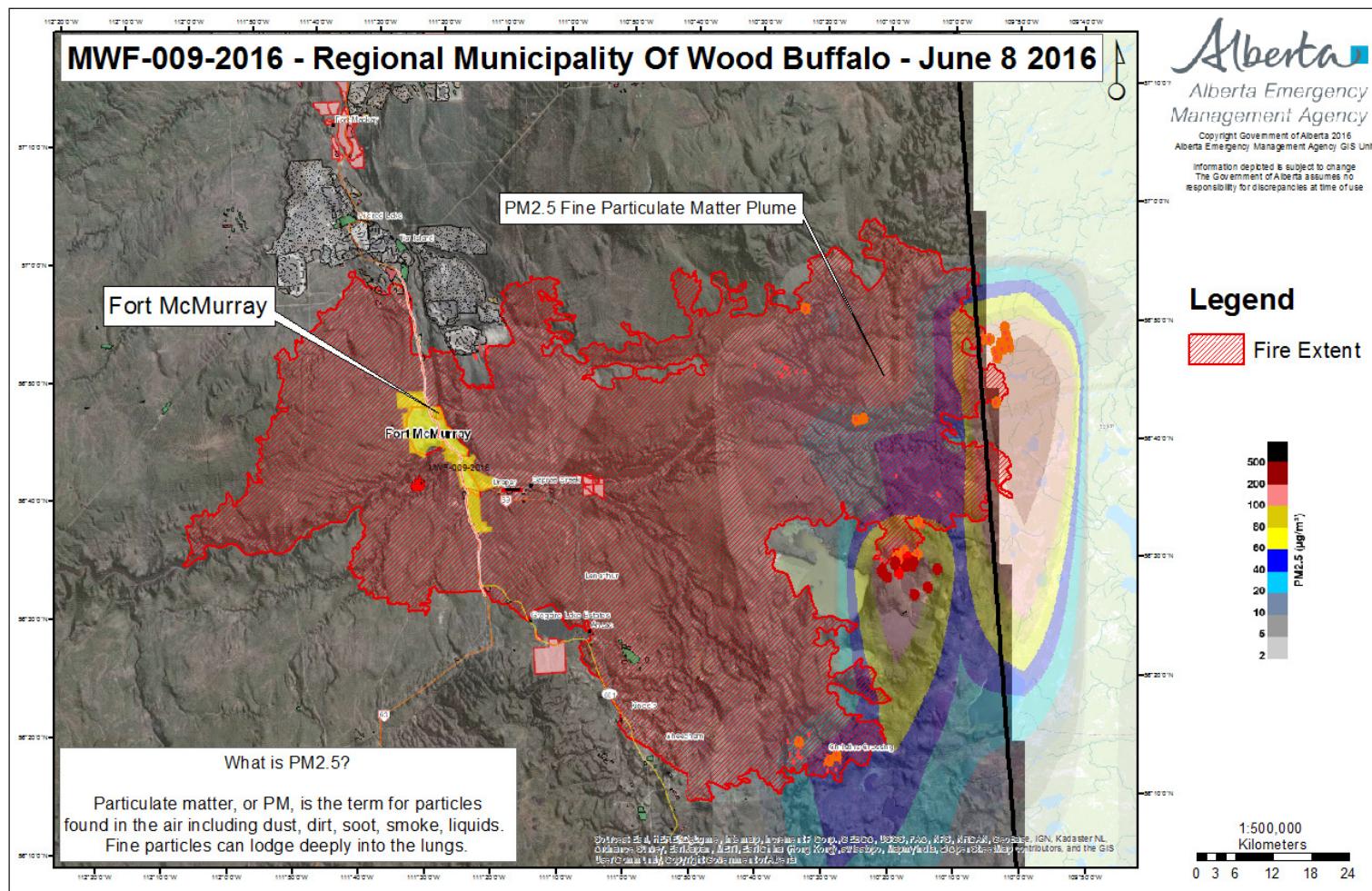
Date: 5/16/2016

MWF-009 - Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo - May 16 2016



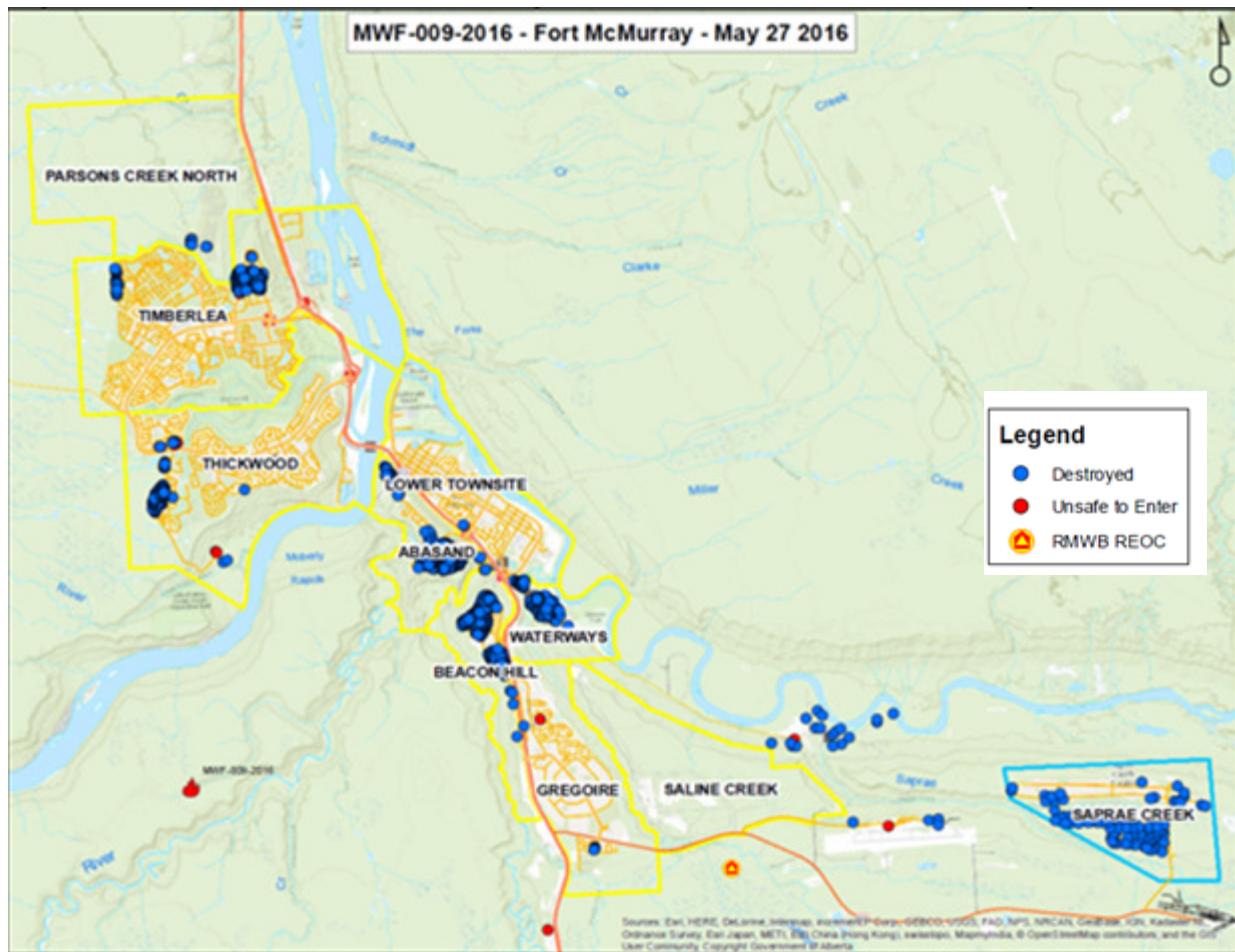
# Industry Camps





- Minimal growth – 581,586 Hectares
- 70 % contained

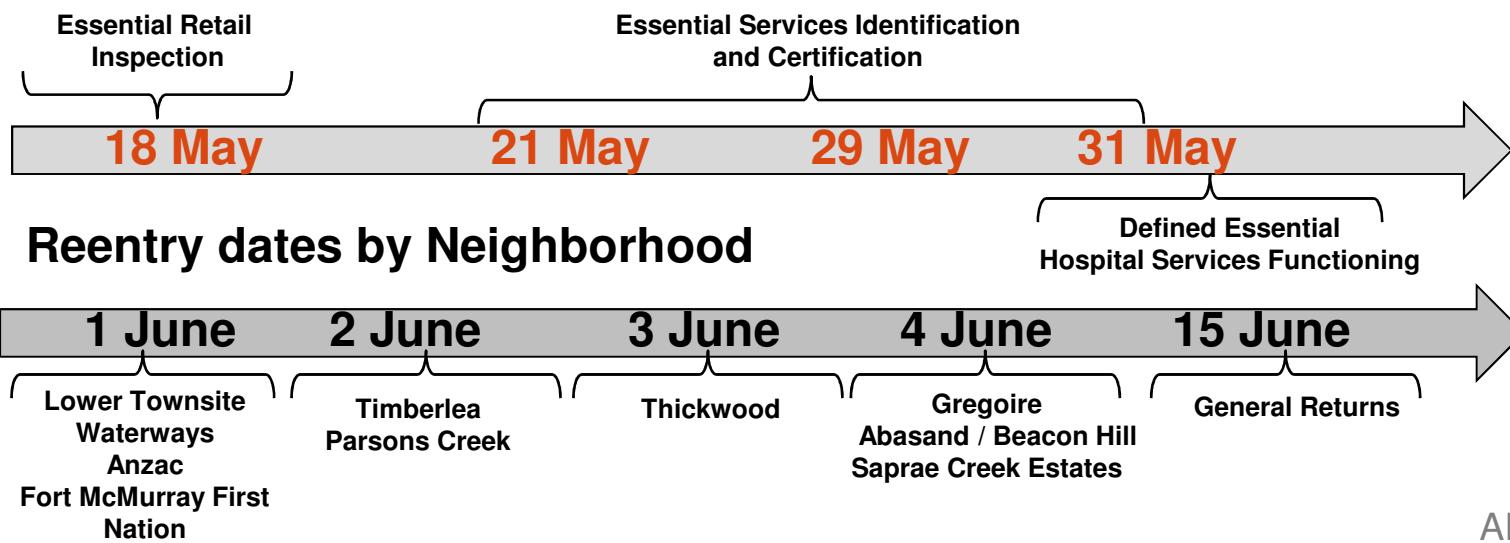
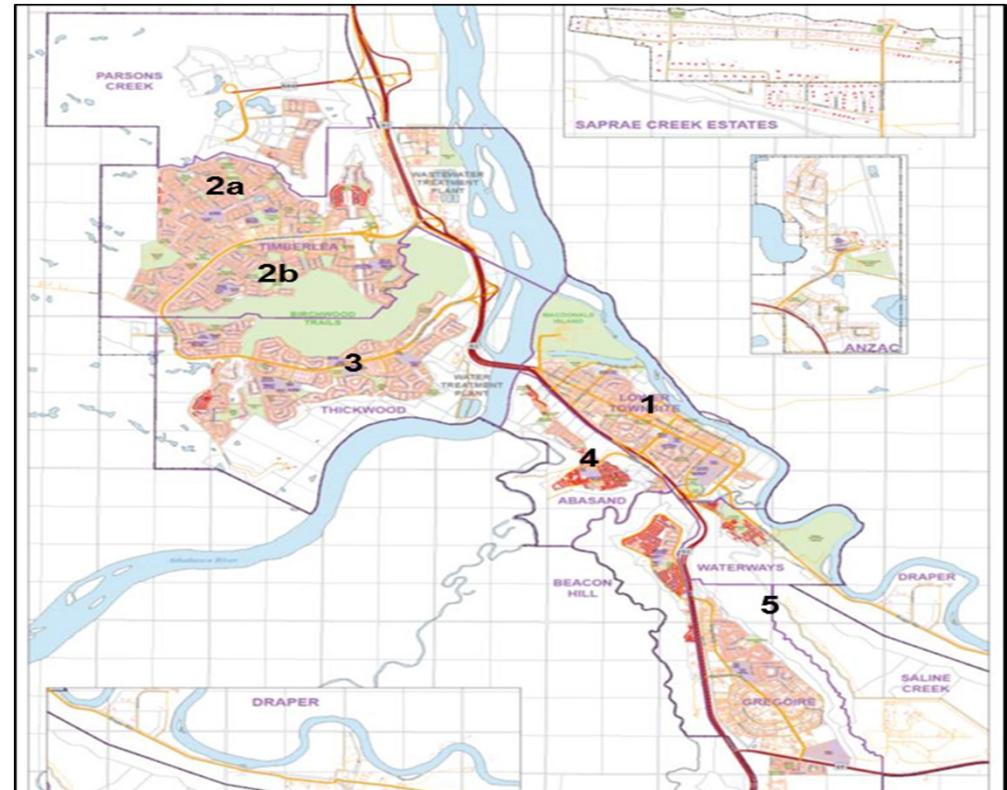
# Destroyed Homes - May 27, 2016



## Damage Assessment

- Safe to Occupy: 16,801
- Restricted Use: 113
- Unsafe to Enter/Occupy: 643
- Destroyed: 1,929

# Re-Entry Plan for Fort McMurray





# Lessons Learned



# REOC Lessons Learned

- » Incident rhythm
- » Staffing of the REOC
- » Ability to maintain routine operations

# AER Lessons Learned

- » ICS structure within AER needs to evolve
- » Clear role identification
- » GIS Mapping Compatibility
- » Involve industry early
- » Importance of clear communication

# Industry Lessons Learned

- » Comprehensive regional response plan
- » Build on established relationships
  - Best practice model

# Lessons Learned Provincial Level

- » Importance of Crisis Communications
- » Designation of Critical Infrastructure
- » Synched and exercised Emergency Social Services (ESS) Plans
- » Community Evacuation Plan – Care, Stabilize and Evacuate Pets
- » ICS is the System
- » Incident Management Teams (IMTS)

# Common Theme

- » Building of relationships and networking outside of an incident which allows us to move at the speed of trust during crisis

Questions?

Thank you.

# Website Materials

AEMA: [www.aema.alberta.ca](http://www.aema.alberta.ca)

Public Safety Canada: [www.publicsafety.gc.ca](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca)

Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness:  
[www.ccep.ca](http://www.ccep.ca)

Public Safety Canada website:  
[www.publicsafety.gc.ca](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca)

AER: [www.aer.ca](http://www.aer.ca)