

**Fire Safety Canada
3060 Airport Road
Kamloops, BC, V2B 7X2**

Environmental Fact Sheet / Retardant & Waterways.

1. Air Attack Operational Requirements and Practices

Canadian wildfire management agencies direct all operational retardant drops and are required to immediately report any accidental or unavoidable discharge of retardant into a waterway in accordance with regulatory requirements. Air Attack Officer Training specifically addresses the environmental aspects of retardant use on the landscape, and the possible consequences of retardant dropping into water sources. Accordingly, every effort is made to plan air operations to avoid these areas wherever possible.

2. Surface/Ground Water Effects

Research conducted by the U.S. Forest Service indicates that aquatic life in streams receiving runoff from vegetation or land impacted by fire retardant drops would not be at risk of a toxic effect. Retardant absorbed into the ground will not percolate into underground aquifers, but rather it gets tied-up by the soil and becomes available as plant nutrient.

Direct Impact Effects

Infrequently, small amounts of mixed or concentrated fire retardant have inadvertently entered watercourses. Research conducted by the U.S. Forest Service indicates some individual juvenile fish species in small and localized portions of streams could be adversely affected as a result. Since these events are rare and localized, it is not expected they would have any significant effect on overall fish population.

3. MOE (Ministry of Environment) Requirements

Provincial Environmental Regulations require companies to report unintentional release or discharge of specified quantities of mixed or concentrated retardant to Environmental authorities immediately and to mitigate the impact.

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