

Kamloops Centre & Zones

2020 Recruit Orientation



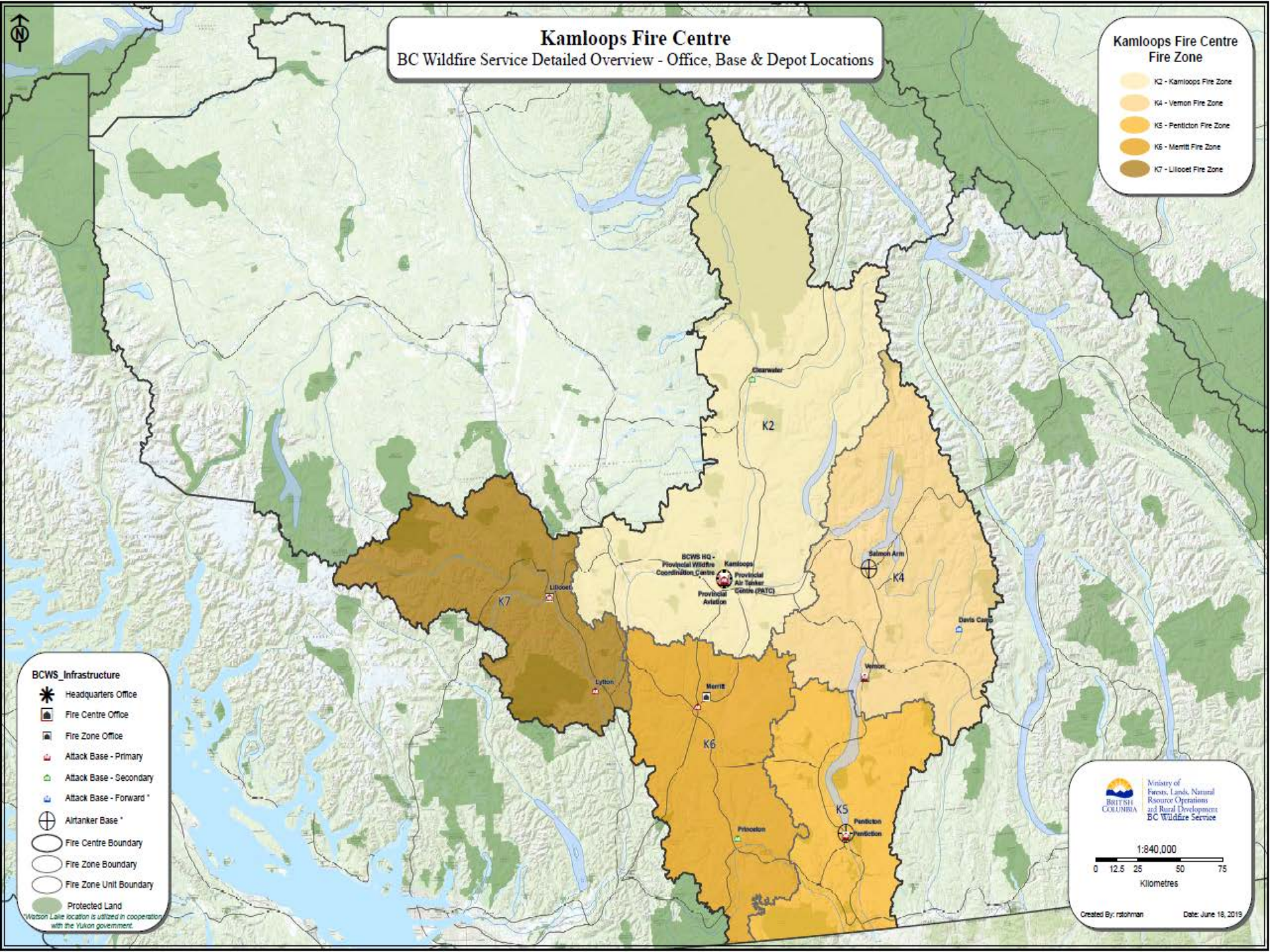
Kamloops Fire Center

Zones



Fire Center is located at the Kamloops airport.
Next door to the FC is the Provincial Coordinating
Centre and The Provincial Air Tanker Centre.

- Kamloops – K2
- Vernon – K4
- Penticton – K5
- Merritt – K6
- Lillooet –K7





Kamloops is located along the Trans Canada Highway approximately halfway between Calgary and Vancouver.

Forest fuels vary from open fuel type of bunchgrass, sagebrush and Douglas Fir/Ponderosa Pine at valley bottom, transitioning into mixed lodgepole pine, Douglas Fir, Larch and Spruce at middle elevations, and Sub alpine Balsam Fir, White bark Pine and Sub alpine Larch at higher elevations.

Fire Season in the Kamloops Zone, like most parts of the Fire Centre center is typically from early spring to late fall. There is spring “grass” fire season typically in March/April at valley bottom as soon as the snow melts, before green-up happens.

KAMLOOPS ZONE – K2

Zone Office : Kamloops Airport

6 Initial Attack Crew

1 Unit Crew (Big Horns)



So, what are the pros and cons?

The pros? You are living in a major interior city with a large University. The Provincial Wildfire Coordinating Centre (PWCC) is next door. Lots of accommodation is available for a reasonable price. Great biking and recreating. Fairly centralized in the province so opportunity for deployments are abundant. Many training sessions are held in the KFC, and spots sometimes open up last minute, which allows crew here to take advantage of these opportunities.

The cons? Centrally located so if the province is heating up or hot you will be on standby a lot. You are living in a major city centre, so fires and public/media is something that you will have to learn to manage.



VERNON FIRE ZONE – K4

3 Initial Attack Crews

1 Unit Crew (Vernon UC)



Fire season can start as early as Late March, and often rolls into the fall when the snow flies.

This is one of the busiest zones in the fire centre. With a number of very large communities within the zone. Surrounding these communities you

will also find a lot of rural farm land.

The Pros:

You work overlooking beautiful Lake Kalamalka just below predator ridge. Very diverse climate, hot and dry semi arid desert to the west and interior wet belt to the east.

The Cons: Busy tourist traffic in the summer, housing is expensive and hard to come by.



The Penticton Zone fire season runs from early March until late September or early October.

Forest fuels vary from open fuel type of bunchgrass, sagebrush and Douglas Fir/Ponderosa Pine at valley bottom, transitioning into mixed lodgepole pine, Douglas Fir, Larch and Spruce at middle elevations, and Sub alpine Balsam Fir, White bark Pine and Sub alpine Larch at higher elevations.

PENTICTON FIRE ZONE – K5

Zone Office: Penticton
7 Initial Attack Crews



So, what are the pros and cons?

The Pros:

Very busy zone throughout the summer. Lots of great lakes to visit while on standby. Lots of challenging fires working with other agencies.

The Cons:

Very busy so lots of standby time and not as many opportunities for out of zone deployments. Traffic in the Okanagan in the summer can be dense. Temps in the summer months can exceed 40 degrees C. Housing is expensive and hard to come by.



The Merritt fire zone is also located on the Trans Canada highway, between Kamloops and Hope. It is the largest zone in the province with active staff. With 4 initial attack crews, and 3 unit crews (2 on base one in Princeton) base life can be very busy.

The spring season is quite active with a combination of prescribed fire events and flood work,... In the most recent years wildfire have started earlier and earlier.

The Merritt Zone is a great example of how you can fill sandbags one days and be on a wildfire the next.

The fire season typically finds Merritt crews battling a wide variety of challenging fires from steep terrain to Railway, Industrial, and human caused fires. Typical fuel type ranges from grassy sparse hills to densely populated conifer stands.

MERRITT FIRE ZONE – K6

Zone Office: Merritt

4 Initial Attack Crews

Merritt: 2 Unit Crews (Fire Devils & Knights)

Princeton: 1 Unit Crew (Sierras)



So, what are the pros and cons?

The Pros: Provincial Training Centre is located at your base. Lots of fuel management work. Centrally located with lots of deployment potential (locally and provincially) Flood work in the spring almost every year. Lots of different opportunities for training grounds, and courses from New Recruit Boot Camp to Fire Investigation courses.

The Cons: Provincial Training Center is located at your base. Base can be quiet a busy place.



The Lillooet Zone is hot, dry and rugged. It is the hottest place in Canada (temps have hit 44C), the zone is on the lee side of the Coast mountain range.

Valley bottom is comprised of bunchgrass and sagebrush which transitions to Ponderosa Pine and Douglas Fir.

LILLOOET ZONE – K7

Zone Office: Lillooet

Forward Attack Base: Lytton

Lillooet: 3 Initial Attack Crews & 1 Unit Crew (Seaton Lake)

Lytton: 2 Initial Attack Crews & 1 Unit Crew (Rattlers)



So, what are the pros and cons?

The Pros: Some would say the earliest fire season provincially. Steep terrain with fairly large trees. Pretty interesting weather, and wind that will play with the dynamic of each fire very quickly. Fires here tend to grow from valley bottom to mountain top fast. Last year the zone had the opportunity to work with other governing agencies on a coordinated event to help restore natural fish passage to the Fraser River, after the Big Bar Landslide.

The Cons: Rentals are costly, and position in the crew ranks are not turned over often. Somewhat remote if trying to travel to the Coast or North of Kamloops on a weekend.