Initial Attack

Initial Attack

- Initial attack (IA) crews consist of 3 firefighters, (one crew leader and two crew members) and are stationed in strategic locations throughout the province

- Primary use for IA crews is initial response to new incidents by helicopter or truck. They can be used for remote access fire response as well as roadside interface fire response situations.

- Initial attack crew's work quickly to set up water pumps, remove fuel from the fire's path and dig fire guards to control or extinguish the blaze

Initial Attack

- The British Columbia Wildfire Service (BCWS) maintains a total of 140 Initial Attack Crews
- IA bases have numerous crews, usually based around an airport
- They respond to all fires within their zone/area, can be deployed where needed
- Bases will have crews on standby from 12-24hrs a day depending on current and predicted fire risk

Initial Attack

- Initial response to new incidents by truck or helicopter.
- Provide initial size up of new incidents and recommend an action plan for management of the incident.
- In most cases, the action plan involves the IA crew working the incident and remaining on scene until completion. If the incident is beyond the capabilities of a single IA crew, they will request additional resources and remain on scene until there is either a turnover of command or until the incident is complete.
- Can be used for a variety of smaller missions on sustained action incidents.
- May also be deployed to assist Emergency Management BC (EMBC) e.g. Sandbagging.

Initial Attack

- IA crewmembers must have a **maximum dressed weight of <200lbs**
- IA crews are 24hrs self-sufficient and often overnight fires
- Crews work alone or with other BCWS Type 1 crews, Type2 or 3 contract crews depending on the scale of the incident
- IA crews regularly work with Helicopters, Heavy Equipment, ATV's

Initial Attack

Crew gear includes but not limited to;

- IA kit – Pump/hose/fuel
- Saw kits – Chainsaws and Protective Equipment
- Handtools – Polaski's and shovels
- Overnight Kit – Camping gear and food
- Driptorch – Hand ignition device

Initial Attack

IA highlights

- Lots of hiking
- Helicopter time
- Diverse work environment – every day is different
- Small close team
- Lots of standby

Unit Crew

Unit Crew

- Highly trained, mobile, physically fit, productive 20 person crew consisting of one Crew Supervisor, 3 or 4 Crew leaders and 15 Crew Members.
- Unit Crews are equipped to contain fires of all sizes, by means of water suppression, hand ignition or construction of fuel free guards.
- They are 72 hour self sufficient (food, water, and equipment).
- Unit Crews can also be configured as an IA resource if there is a need.
- There are no weight restrictions for Unit Crew personnel.

Unit Crew

- Unit Crews are located in every Fire Centre, but are often deployed around BC and other provinces for 14 days at time.
- Unit Crews will do dynamic group fitness workouts together when they are not on fires and engage in community projects that are in of need a workforce.
- A twenty person crew is only as good as the sum of all its parts, if you enjoy working as a large cohesive team and seeing large projects come to life. The Unit Crew might be for you.