

Mission Statement

In April and May of 2016, the unprecedented Horse River wildfires swept through the city of Fort McMurray and the protected areas surrounding it. While some of these fires were naturally created, human-caused fires contributed to devastation of both protected areas and urban ecological systems in the Fort McMurray area. The fires burned forests in the protected Clearwater River Provincial Park in Saskatchewan, and Gipsy Lake Wildland and Grand Rapids Wildland in Alberta. The Horse River wildfires also decimated the city of Fort McMurray, with much of the city being burned at a cost of \$9.9 billion. Habitat destruction, increased sedimentation into surrounding rivers, and decreased air quality for people and animals living in this area are only a few of the impacts that resulted from this disaster. Our goal with LightorFight is to give people the opportunity to report wildfires along with indicators of their strength and allow emergency personnel to make the decision to quickly respond to these threats with evacuation and firefighting efforts or allow the fire to run its natural course in the area it is affecting.