

# WILDFIRES

Emergency Preparedness and Lessons Learned





# The Perfect Storm

- Lack of snow provincially (40.3cm recorded from Jan 1 to April)
- Lack of Precipitation 133.7mm from Jan 1 to May 28<sup>th</sup>
- Lack of below Freezing temperatures all winter
- Pre-Greenup – brown grasses, less new growth
- Spring Dip – Leaves just starting to come out
- High Temperatures 30 Celsius
- High Winds (gusts of 50km/hr)

Stats taken from Halifax Environment Canada



## **SURVIVAL OR DESTRUCTION?**

Landscape Practises, Proximity and type of Forest, Proximity to Neighbour, Long Driveways and yard accumulation

# Wildfire Urban Interface Challenges

- PPE – Working in around structures still burning and respirators
- Firefighter Safety – Collapse zones, open septics, air quality, evacuations
- Span of Control – Multiple Fires Provincially, Fire services stretched
- The belief that assessments/mitigation fails



# Assessment Completed in Westwood

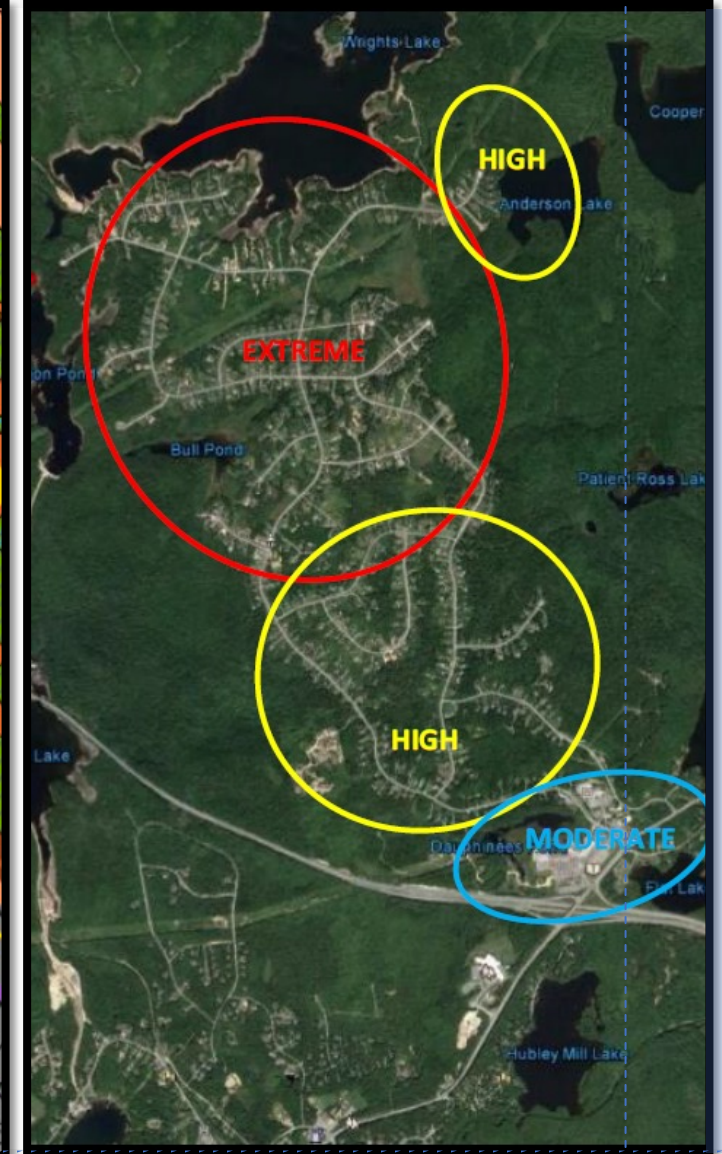
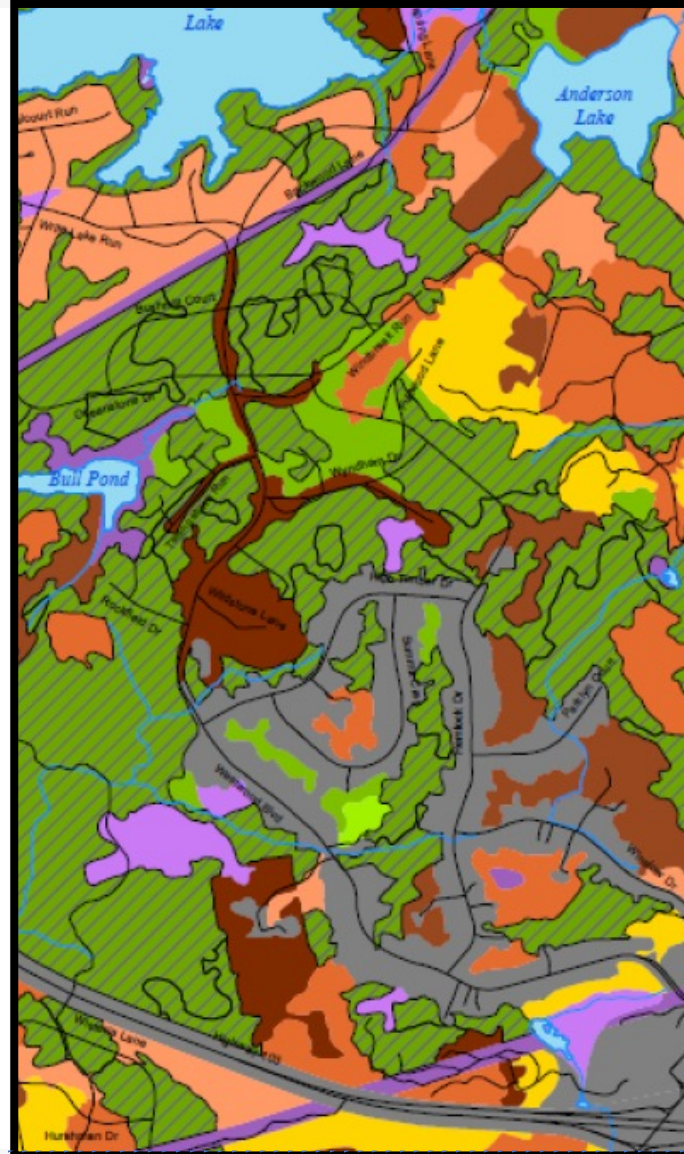
## Identified as issues:

- Water Supply
- Access/Egress
- Forest Type/Proximity
- Landscape Practises

## Actions Taken:

- - Access/Egress
- - 20 Home Assessments
- - Public Session and Social Media
- - Re-assessment in November 2022

Always include critical infrastructure in Assessments! Towers can be burned too



# LESSONS LEARNED AS A FIRST RESPONDER



Never say Never – Take Action, be present, accountable and Plan

Share Assessments with ALL parties (Officials, Residents, agencies requiring to take action)

This isn't one agencies responsibility – It's Everyones

Share evacuation Planning

Most of all – These are working documents – Not to sit on a shelf



# LESSONS LEARNED AS A RESIDENT

- Create a community phone tree, What's App, media site – Notify each other of fire
- Follow FireSmart Canada's Practises it gives you a higher chance of Home Survival never wait to take action
- 72 Hr Preparedness – What to pack, where to go, what to do for your family and pets
- Insurance
- As a community create a resiliency in your homes, you neighbourhoods and the neighbourhoods around you.