



# LESSONS FROM THE REDWATER WILDFIRE



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Experiences and insights on disaster response from a planner

# WHY RESILIENCE PLANNING MATTERS

## Importance of Resilience Planning

Resilience planning helps communities face severe disruptions by anticipating and managing cascading challenges effectively.

## Role of Planners

Planners integrate land use, infrastructure, and community needs into long-term strategies for disaster resilience.

## Proactive Approach Benefits

Embedding resilience in plans ensures protection of infrastructure, supports vulnerable populations, and streamlines recovery.

## Adaptation and Recovery

Resilience planning focuses on adaptation, enabling communities to emerge stronger after disruptions.



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# NATURE OF DISRUPTIONS

## **Interconnected and Predictable Disruptions**

Disruptions often cascade and are linked, making hazard identification and risk assessments vital for anticipation.

## **Scenario Planning and Response**

Scenario planning maps vulnerabilities and develops tailored response strategies for specific hazards.

## **Integrating Risk in Planning**

Incorporating risk into zoning, land use bylaws, and infrastructure planning reduces hazard exposure.

## **Social Dimensions of Vulnerability**

Social inequities in income, housing, and language amplify vulnerability during crises requiring equitable resilience approaches.

# SKILLS AND FRAMEWORKS

## Core Emergency Skills

Planners excel in data integration, adaptive thinking, and cross-sector collaboration vital for effective emergency responses.

## Incident Command System Role

As Planning Section Chiefs in ICS, planners coordinate diverse information streams to create actionable strategies.

## Incident Action Plans

Planners develop Incident Action Plans outlining objectives and tactics for each operational period.

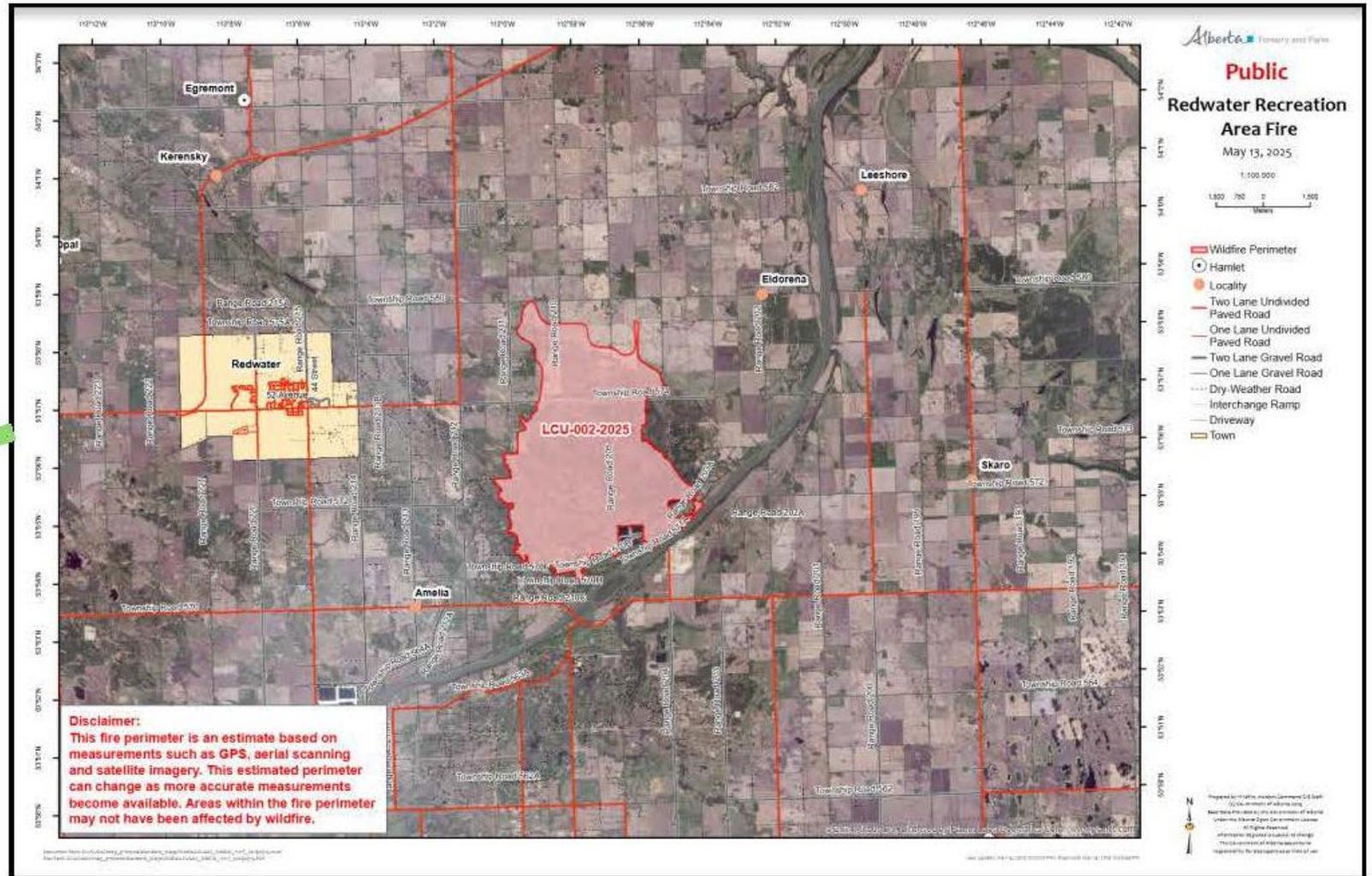
## Leadership and Preparedness

Planners bridge technical expertise and leadership, embedding emergency preparedness into daily planning.



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# INCIDENT OVERVIEW AND LESSONS LEARNED



Maps showing the location of Sturgeon County and extent of the Redwater Wildfire.

# INCIDENT OVERVIEW AND LESSONS LEARNED

KEY METRIC	VALUE
Area Burned	3,230 hectares
Shifts Worked	2,200
External Responders	571
County Staff	187
Response Cost	\$11.5 million
Evacuated Households	77
Dwellings Lost	3

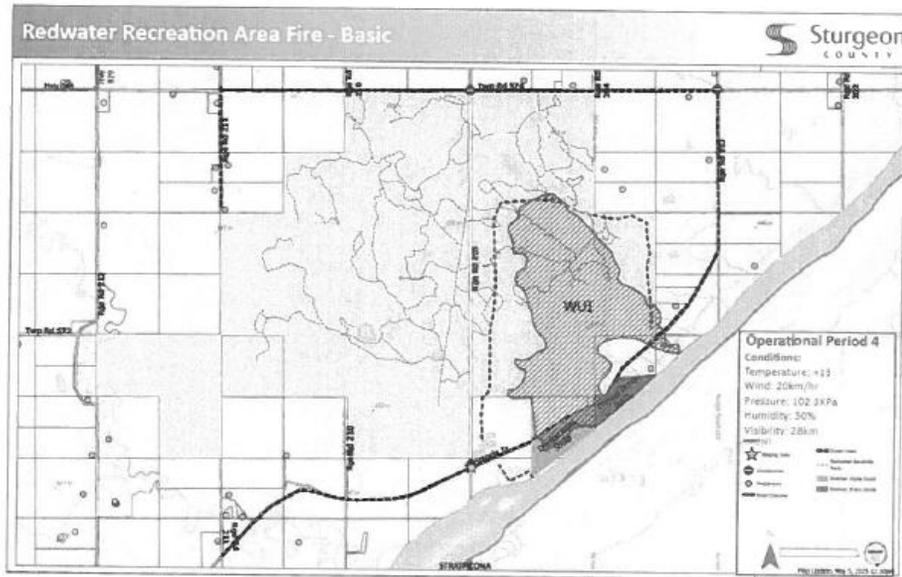


# Redwater Recreational Area Fire

Incident No. 001-25

## Incident Action Plan

May 6, 2025



# Redwater Recreational Area Fire

Incident No. 001-25

## Incident Action Plan

May 8, 2025 – Operational Period #6 (0600 – 0600)



# ADDRESSING VULNERABILITIES

## **Unequal Disaster Impact**

Disasters affect populations differently due to factors like isolation, income, language, and housing insecurity.

## **Equity in Resilience Planning**

Planners must engage diverse voices and conduct vulnerability assessments to integrate equity into planning.

## **Inclusive Infrastructure and Communication**

Design infrastructure and communication strategies that serve marginalized communities and are accessible to all.

## **Building Just and Resilient Communities**

Prioritizing inclusion helps build communities that are both resilient and equitable in recovery efforts.



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# CONCLUSION AND CALLS TO ACTION

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# PLANNERS AS CATALYSTS FOR RESILIENCE

## **Role of Planners in Resilience**

Planners lead resilience by understanding systems, connecting disciplines, and engaging communities.

## **Integrating Resilience Strategies**

Resilience must be integrated into planning from policies to development approvals to prepare communities.

## **Advocating Equity and Adaptation**

Planners should promote equity and adaptation to help communities thrive amid uncertainty and crises.

## **Forward-looking Planning**

Planning must shift from growth-centric to adaptation-centric to address future challenges effectively.

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# THANK YOU!

