**Backgrounder: Wildfire management in Saskatchewan**

 The budget for wildfires has decreased by 45 per cent, from $102 million in 2009/10 to $56 million in 2015/16

*Budget for wildfires (in thousands of dollars)*



*Retrieved from budget estimates 2009-2016*

<http://finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2015-16/FinanceEstimates2015-16.pdf>

<http://finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2014-15/2014-15Estimates.pdf>

<http://finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2013-14/2013-14Estimates.pdf>

<http://finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2012-13/2012-13Estimates.pdf>

<http://finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2011-12/2011-12Estimates.pdf>

<http://finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2010-11/2010-11Estimates.pdf>

<http://finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2009-10/Budget200910Estimates.pdf>

 38 firefighter and 40 tower observer positions were eliminated over the last several years, according to the SGEU.

<http://www.sgeu.org/public/images/News_Releases/20151208-Government_review_of_wildfire_crisis.pdf>

  Due to below average snowfall and low spring rain levels, the majority of  Saskatchewan is either at a “high” or “extreme” risk for wildfires, according to the latest update from the Government of Saskatchewan’s Wildfire Management Branch.



Map retrieved from: <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=3828f5ca-06cb-420a-bd19-dfed4785c99e>

Forest Fringe fire hazard map:

<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=5e4cf88a-8c35-4f56-a636-d6336aa905d1>

Southern Saskatchewan fire hazard map:

<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=f436a478-b527-4015-b314-86b14d2fe73b>

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