

Re: Item No. 4

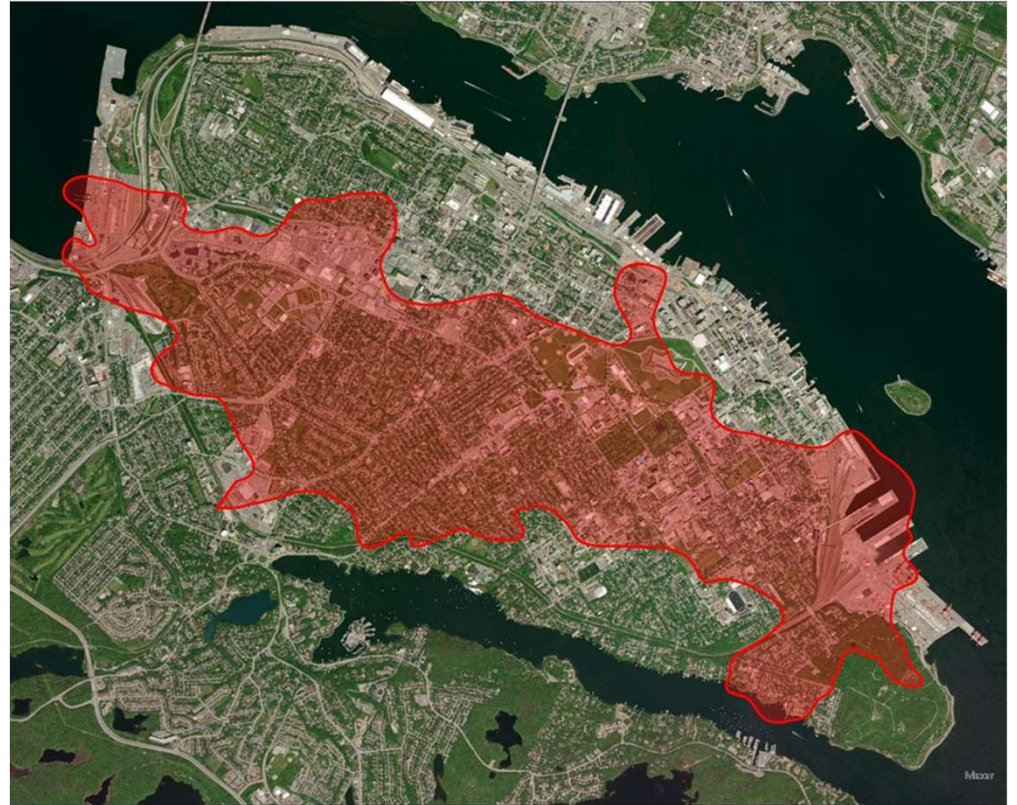
August 20, 2024

**HALIFAX**

# **HRFE PIA – Upper Tantallon 2023 Wildland Urban Interface Fire**

# Largest WUI fire in HRM history

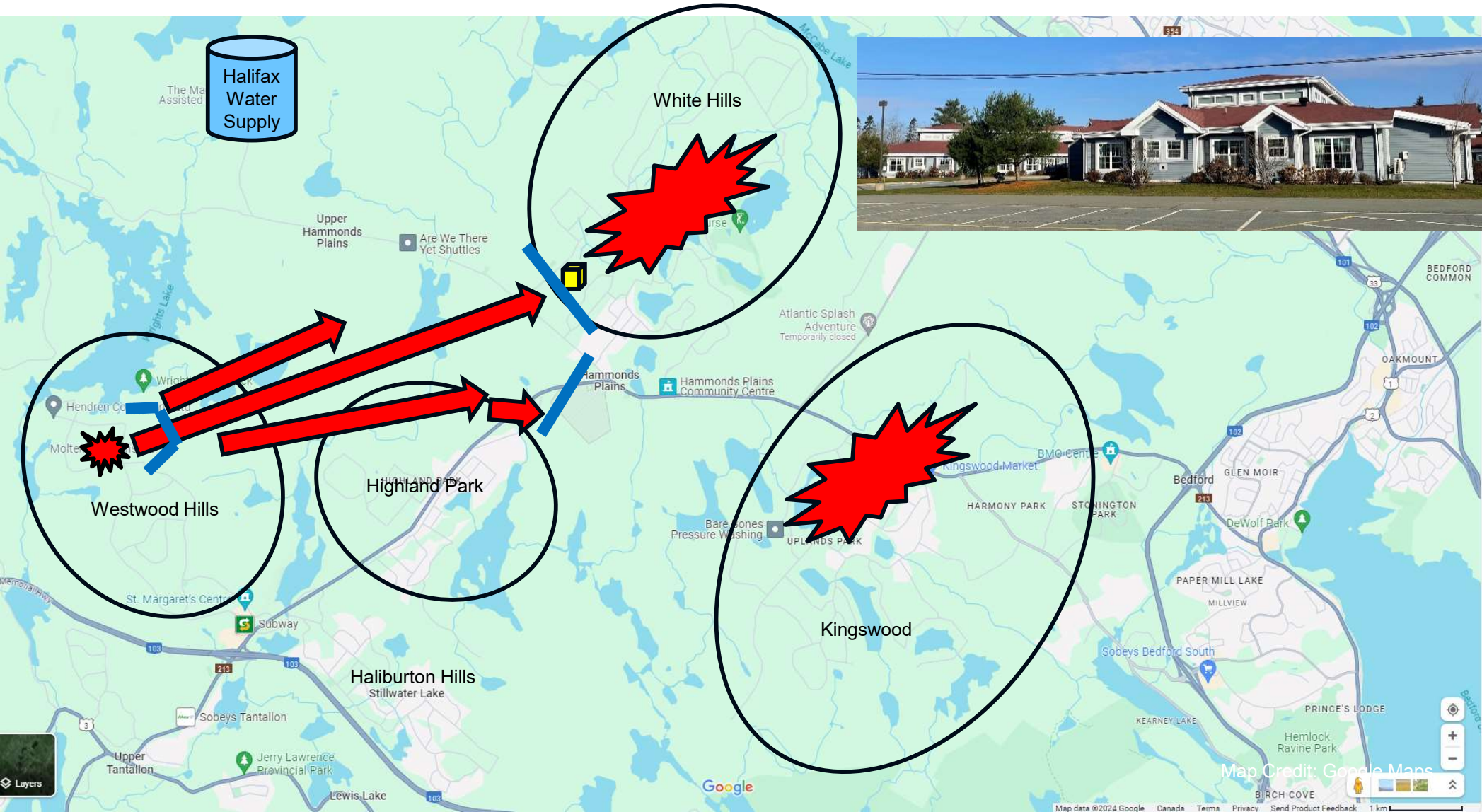
- 16,000+ evacuated
- 200 structures
  - 151 homes
- ~3 Weeks
- 900 hectares+



# May 28 Environmental Conditions

- Drought conditions
- Low moisture content
- Lack of green
- Crossover







Drone Video Credit: HRFE

# May 29: Transfer of Command HRFE to DNRR



Photo Credit: HRFE



Photo Credit: Communications Nova Scotia

HRFE PIA Tantallon Wildfire

**HALIFAX**

# May 29 – June 4



Photo Credit: HRFE



Photo Credit: Communications Nova Scotia

HRFE PIA Tantallon Wildfire

**HALIFAX**

# May 30



Photo Credit: Communications Nova Scotia



Photo Credit: HRFE

Map Credit: Google Maps



# June 1



Photo credit: CTV News

# June 2-5

Daily Data Report for June 2023

DAY	<u>Max</u> <u>Temp</u> °C	<u>Min</u> <u>Temp</u> °C	<u>Mean</u> <u>Temp</u> °C	<u>Heat</u> <u>Deg</u> <u>Days</u>	<u>Cool</u> <u>Deg</u> <u>Days</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Rain</u> mm	<u>Total</u> <u>Snow</u> cm	<u>Total</u> <u>Precip</u> mm	<u>Snow on</u> <u>Grnd</u> cm	<u>Dir of</u> <u>Max</u> <u>Gust</u> 10's deg	<u>Spd of</u> <u>Max Gust</u> km/h
<u>01</u>	33.1	10.8	22.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		33	36
<u>02</u>	25.6	8.3	17.0	1.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	7.1		2	43
<u>03</u>	8.9	7.4	8.2	9.8	0.0	26.3	0.0	26.3		10	44
<u>04</u>	10.5	7.2	8.9	9.1	0.0	5.7	0.0	5.7		11	35
<u>05</u>	10.9	7.5	9.2	8.8	0.0	50.5	0.0	50.5		3	57

# June 6-20, Post Fire Activities



174 Fire  
Investigations  
Completed



166 Buildings  
Fenced



HRD Dogs



166 Property  
Release Forms  
Signed



All Property  
Released to  
Homeowners

# HRFE PIA



## BU level Policy P-410 Post Incident Analysis



### HRFE PIA is:

Review of HRFE's actions taken to mitigate an emergency.

A tool for continuous improvement at the Business Unit level.



### HRFE PIA is not:

A forensic investigation or assessment of everyone's actions.

An assessment into the response or actions of any other BU or outside stakeholder.

11

# Methodology: Data Gathering

## Document review:

- Dispatch records, IAPs, FDM, WUI references, WUI AARs, etc.

## Surveys (3):

- HRFE, external responding agencies, and firefighting personnel.

## Interviews (25) and focus groups (8):

- Volunteer & career firefighters
- HRFE Leadership & IAFF local 268 Executive
- HRFE BUs – Community Safety, PFE, HRP-IES
- EHS & EMCI, RCMP

12

# Report Writing



Taskforce members identified themes which emerged and combined the observational data associated with each theme to provide noted observations assigned with recommendation.



Draft reviewed:

HRFE leadership  
External SMEs Emergency  
Management

# Findings: 13 Themes

24 Best Practices and 56 Opportunities for Improvement

1. Major Event Response
2. Evacuation
3. Accountability
4. Safety
5. Wildland Urban Interface  
Wildfire
6. Firefighting
7. Water Supply
8. Mutual Aid Support
9. Logistics
10. Emergency Fleet Services
11. Telecommunications and  
Technology
12. Emergency Public Information
13. Fire Investigation

# Progress to Date & Next Steps

- Continuous Improvement & Collaboration
- Wildfire Mitigation Program Manager, Planner & WUI Strategy
- Public Education
- FireSmart
- Wildfire Apparatus
- Equipment & Training
- Increase Static Water Supply Funding
- ICS Training & Business Continuity Planning
- Apparatus Technology
- Pilot Early Detection Technology<sup>15</sup>



# Conclusion



- No loss of life or significant injury.
- Tremendous interagency cooperation.
- Incredible human effort and dedication displayed.

16