

Post-Wildfire Geologic Hazards in the BC Southern Interior

Timothy Smith*, P.Ge, Eng.L, LEG
Engineering Geologist
Westrek Geotechnical Services Ltd., Squamish BC

tsmith.westrek@shaw.ca

Summary

The forests of the Southern Interior of BC are impacted by catastrophic wildfires that periodically affect populated areas. Following the 2003 Firestorm, debris flows, debris floods and hyperconcentrated flows were triggered from several of the interface fires following summer convection rainfall events. This presentation discusses how these events initiate on burned slopes using several of the fires for 2003 and also how these hazards and the risks associated with them are being addressed using experience from the 2009 fire season. These hazards are likely to become more problematic and relevant in a changing climate.