



CASE STUDY

SCRIBBLE MAPS & LESSER SLAVE REGIONAL FIRE SERVICE
PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM WILDFIRES

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When we started using Scribble Maps, it was super easy for our whole team to get on the same page and quickly start using it together. The support we've received from Scribble Maps has been amazing too. We know that if the shit is hitting the fan, they're super quick to get back to us and help us understand how to solve any issues.

Ryan Coutts, firefighter and emergency medical responder with Lesser Slave Regional Fire Service



In an emergency, the right tools are crucial to avoiding disaster and tragedy. The Lesser Slave Regional Fire Service in Alberta, Canada uses Scribble Maps to identify homes at risk of fire damage and coordinate emergency responses. Ultimately, this helps them protect the local community and save lives.

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The Challenge



In May 2011, an unprecedented firestorm converged on Slave Lake and prompted the largest evacuation in Alberta's history.

All 7,000 residents fled as the town's fire fighters attempted to limit the damage to the town. Despite their best efforts, 40% of the town was burned down, causing damages worth \$750 million. To avoid future catastrophes for the town, Lesser Slave Regional Fire Services needed better technology solutions.

When the fire took place, Slave Lake's firefighters still printed out geographic information system (GIS) maps to manage the 10,000km² of boreal forest. A safety assessment was produced for each house in the area, categorizing it green for safe, yellow for problematic and red for unsafe. Firefighters would print off the GIS maps and draw on them

with expo markers or, sometimes, scan the map as a PDF and use Microsoft Paint to record the fire safety of each property.

When the fire happened, firefighters looked at those records to plan their course of action. They could see notes on potential fire hazards at the property, as well as critical information such as whether the driveway is too narrow for a fire engine to be able to safely turn around.

This kind of information can help the fire service to rapidly coordinate responses in an emergency and prioritize where their efforts should be focused. But when every second counts, the last thing responders want to spend time on is rummaging through drawers looking for paper maps that other team members may have already taken.



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The Solution

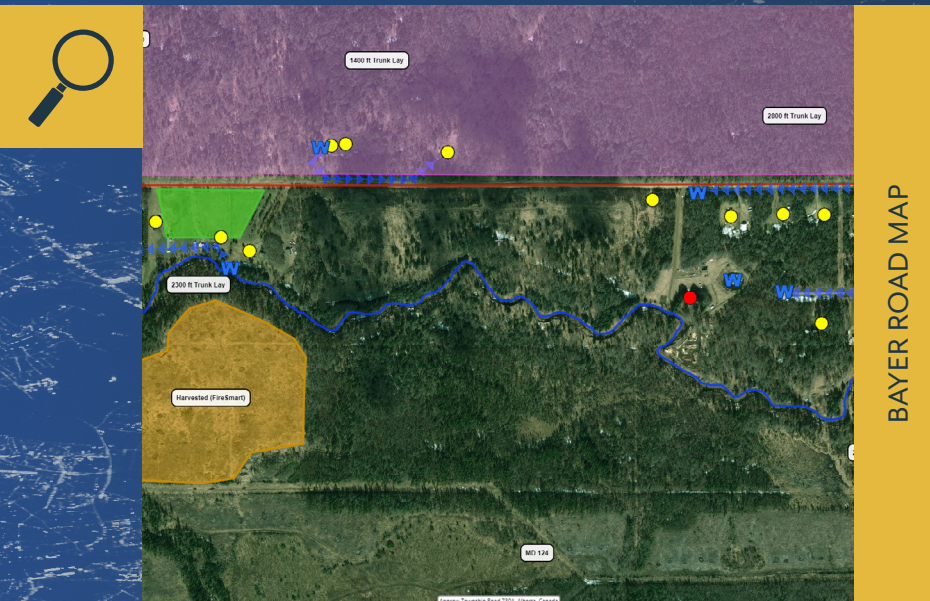
After trying out countless different mapping products, the Lesser Slave Regional Fire Service finally found the solution they needed: Scribble Maps. In May 2019, they began working with the Scribble Maps team and realized it had all the features they needed — and was easy enough for their entire team of firefighters to rely on in an emergency.

The biggest benefit for Lesser Slave Regional Fire Service was enabling everybody to access fire safety assessments at the tap of a finger.

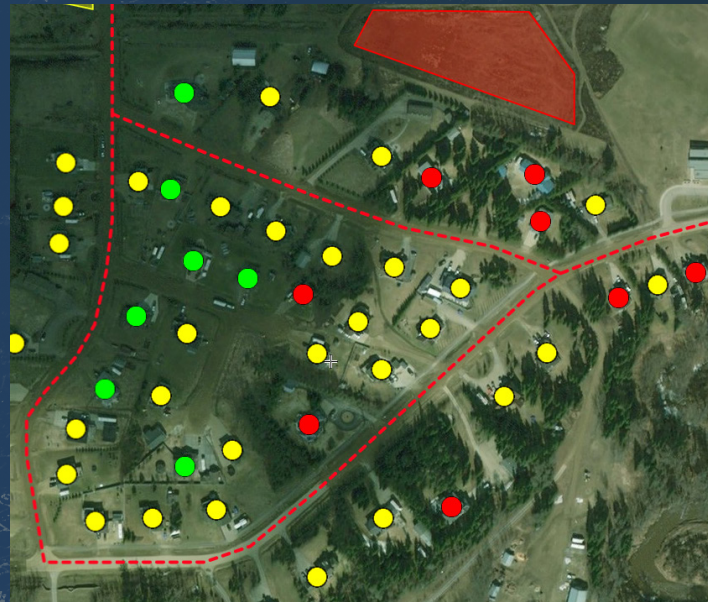
Thanks to Scribble Maps, they now know that if a house is labelled green, then they don't need to waste time pulling furniture off the porch because there's unlikely to be a sizeable risk. Or if there's a dry wood pile by the back door on a house labelled orange, they need to prioritise moving it out of the path of the fire. With Scribble Maps, the whole crew are able to understand these risks as soon as they get the call.

So far in 2019, there have been 165 recorded wildfires in the Slave Lake region of Alberta. While none of them have been as severe as the wildfire that devastated the town in 2011, the Lesser Slave Regional Fire Service knows that preparation is key to protecting the community they serve. Now, with the help of Scribble Maps, they're better prepared than ever.





BAYER ROAD MAP



GLORYLAND MAP



To find out more about Scribble Maps or for an informal chat about your requirements, please email info@scribblemaps.com to speak with one of our representatives.