

FireSmart

Protect your home from
wildfire

District of Highlands

Welcome

- Introduction
- What?
- Why?
- How?

Facts About Fire

Did you know that...

- Fire is nature's way of renewing the forest ecosystem and is necessary for the health of our forests.
- Unfortunately, living in forested areas can be at odds with the natural fire regime.
- Our attempt at preventing forest fires has actually created a higher risk of fire.

Facts About Fire

Did you know that...

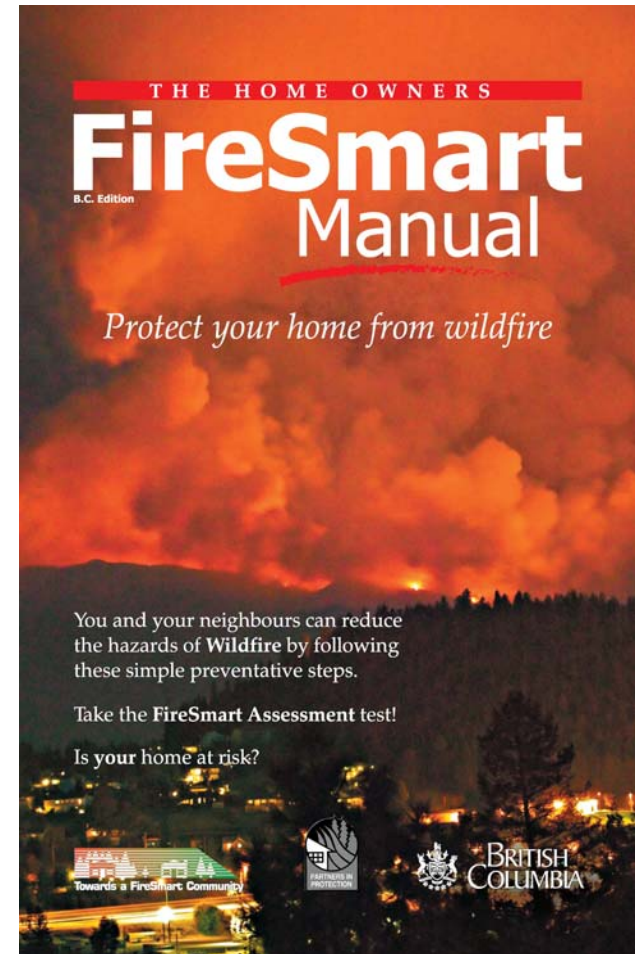
- Crowning forest fires often spread up to 5.5 km/hr, with spotting as far as 2 km ahead.
- Wind blown grass fires can spread up to 8.5 km/hr.
- This creates extreme dangers to anyone living in a forested area.

Rural Reality

- If you live near a forested region, sooner or later you will have to contend with the spread of a wildfire.
- The best protection against loss, damage or injury due to wildfire is prevention.
- A properly built home withstands fire with no intervention.

What is FireSmart?

FireSmart is a program that helps you identify potential fire hazards and prepare your home and your community to protect or reduce damage to your property when a wildfire strikes.



How FireSmart Is Your Home?

- Do your own Home and Site Hazard Assessment



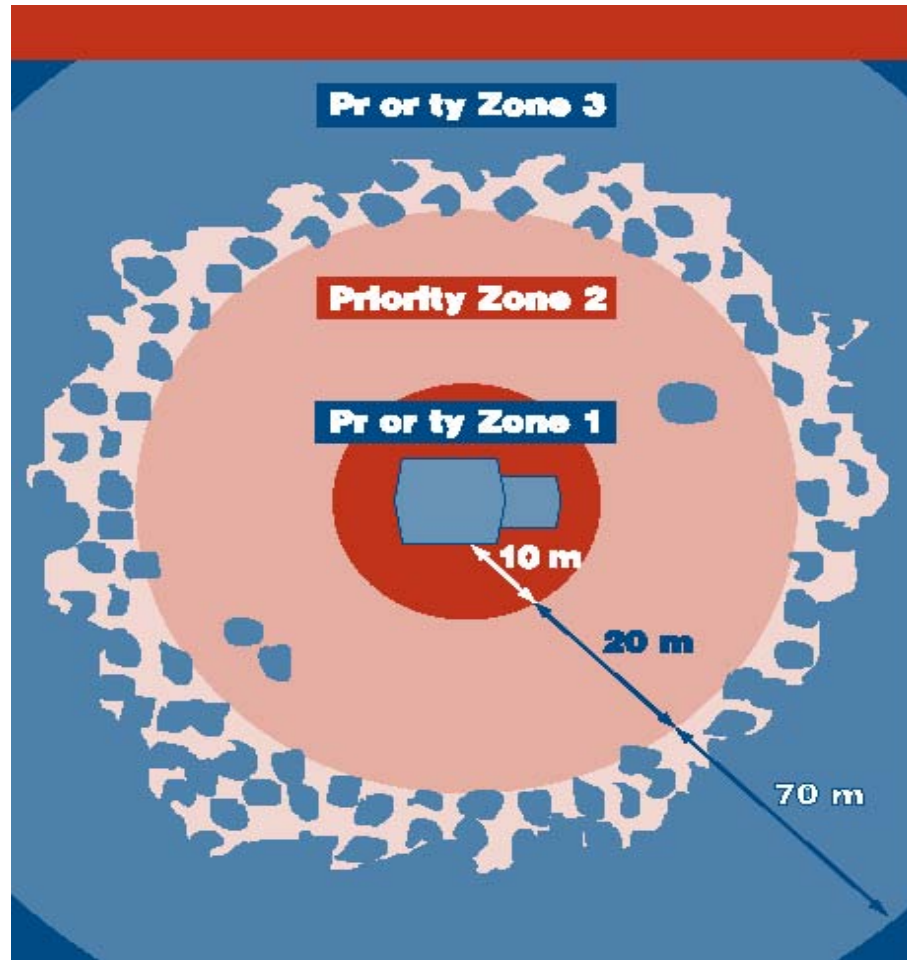
Important Factors	Characteristics of Material	Point Rating	Your Score
What kind of roofing material do you have?	If you have asphalt shingles, metal, clay tile or ULC rated shakes	0	
	If you have unrated wooden shakes	30	
How clean is your roof?	No needles, leaves or other combustible materials	0	
	A scattering of needles and leaves	2	
	Clogged gutters and extensive leaf litter	3	
What is the exterior of your home built out of?	Non-combustible material stucco, metal siding, brick	0	
	Logs or heavy timbers	1	
	Wood, vinyl siding or wood shakes	6	
Are your eaves and vents closed up and screened?	Closed eaves and vents with 3 mm wire mesh	0	
	Closed eaves and vents with no mesh	1	
	Open eaves, open vents	6	
Have you screened in your balcony, deck or porch?	All decks, balconies and porches are screened or sheathed in with fire resistant material	0	
	All decks, balconies and porches are screened or sheathed with combustible material	2	
	Decks, balconies and porches are not screened or sheathed in	6	
How fire resistant are your windows and doors?	Tempered glass in all doors/windows	0	
	Double pane glass:		
	• Small/Medium	1	
	• Large	2	
Where is your woodpile located?	Single pane glass:		
	• Small/Medium	2	
	• Large	4	
Is your home set back from the edge of a slope?	More than 10 metres from any building	0	
	Less than 10 metres from any building	6	
Is your home set back from the edge of a slope?	Building is located on the bottom or lower portion of a hill.	0	
	Building located on the mid to upper portion or crest of a hill	6	

Get Ready...

- Some preventative measures cost very little and greatly reduce fire dangers.
- Others require planning and a long-term commitment to change.
- There are 3 areas where you can apply FireSmart standards to protect or reduce damage to your property should a wildfire strike.

Site Preparation

Interface Priority Zones



Where to start...Zone 1

- Remove any shrubs, trees, deadfall or woodpiles from this area and keep the grass mowed and watered
- Studies show that up to 85% of all homes with only this improvement (and a asphalt shingle roof) will be enough to save a home with no intervention.

Zone 2

What to do:

- Remove trees and debris that can spread fire upwards to become a fast spreading crown fire.
- Remove or reduce the number of ever green trees in the area
- Remove deadfall, thick shrubbery and mature trees

Zone 3

What to do:

- Thin or reduce shrubs and trees that make up the under story, retain fire resistant deciduous trees, space trees to reduce the potential for a crowning fire, producing a more Park like setting.

Building Construction

Building Materials and Design Standards

FireSmart guidelines deal with building materials and design standards for:

- Roofing materials
- Exterior walls
- Firebrand ignitions – such as eaves, vents, decks, porches, trim, etc.; and
- Doors and windows

Is your roof FireSmart?

- Asphalt shingle, clay tile, metal or non combustible materials (0 points)
- Unrated wooden shakes (30 points)



Are your exterior walls FireSmart?

Non-combustible siding
such as:

- stucco,
- metal siding,
- brick,
- cement shingles,
concrete block and
rock

offer superior fire
resistance (0 points)



Is your home vulnerable to Firebrand Ignitions?



Are your doors and window FireSmart?

- Tempered glass (0 pts)
- Double pane (1 or 2 pts)
- Single pane (2 to 4 pts)



Don't be the cause of a wildfire

- FireSmart your chimney(spark screen)
- Locate burn barrels away from building and combustible items
- Keep vegetation clear from power lines and propane tanks
- Ensure adequate emergency vehicle access
- Keep rakes and shovels handy.

Action Plan...

- Assess your home and site hazards
- Identify significant hazards
- Do the necessary cleanup and changes to keep your family, home and community safe

Summary

- You and your neighbours can reduce the hazards of Wildfire with a few preventative steps.
- The FireSmart manual helps identify potential hazards
- Homeowners should focus on site preparation and building construction

For more information

Contact:

Highlands Fire Department

Fire Chief Dean Ford: **250-920-6970**

Office of the Fire Commissioner

Toll Free 1-888-988-9488

Be proactive, be
practical and be
FireSmart!



On-line FireSmart Assessment

- <http://www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca/assessments/siteassess.cfm>