

WILDFIRES

The intensification of wildfire across Western Canada has been unprecedented and extremely costly. As the climate changes, fire season will continue to get longer, wildfires will likely be more difficult to control and greater amounts of land will burn each year. To be resilient, communities must prepare for these new conditions.

WHY IS WILDFIRE GROWING?



Hotter, drier, windier summers
Frequent lightning strikes
Drier fuels to burn

WILDFIRE RISKS AND IMPACTS

damage to homes, buildings, critical infrastructures, vegetation and ecosystems

direct and indirect economic losses

community destabilization

death, physical and psychological trauma

amplification of health and social issues and pressure on healthcare and social supports

poor air quality and visibility

YOUR PROPERTY MAY BE AT GREATER RISK IF...

- You live adjacent to dense, continuous forests or unmanaged grasslands
- Your home has wooden shake roofing, or wood or vinyl siding
- Combustible fuels like woodpiles and dry leaves, twigs, wood mulch and grasses surround your home
- Evergreen trees and shrubs are planted close to your home
- If your gutters have not been recently cleared
- If you live on the upper portion of a slope (fire travels faster uphill)
- You are within 2 kilometers of a burning area (embers can be carried far distances)

SAFEGUARDING PROPERTIES FROM WILDFIRE

The following guidelines are based on FireSmart principles. For comprehensive information about how to protect your home and communities from wildfire, visit [FireSmart Alberta >](#)



Maintain properties regularly to reduce fuels

- Clear dry fuels from yards, roofs, decks, and gutters.
- Pay extra care to keep a 1.5-meter perimeter around structures free of debris and combustible materials.
- Keep lawns watered and mowed 10 cm or shorter.



Landscape to limit fire's ability to spread

- The 10-meter perimeter around your structures should be low-density landscaped with fire-resistant, deciduous plants.
- Do not foundation plant with cedar, juniper, pine, tall grasses, or spruce.
- Space large trees 3 meters apart.
- Prune any branches within 2 meters of the ground.



Select fire-resistant materials

Non-combustible and fire-resistant material options exist for roofing, gutters, vents, siding, windows, decks, doors, and fences, and more. Consider these options first when making upgrades and replacements or building new construction.



Follow an evacuation checklist

If there is time, households on evacuation order should follow FireSmart's **Last-Minute Evacuation Checklist** to ensure every protective measure has been taken.