



Don't Be the Cause of a Wildfire

Interface fires often start as small accidental ignitions. FireSmart standards are aimed at helping interface residents (where development presses up against wildland areas) prevent interface fires from starting.

FireSmart your chimney—Chimneys should be constructed to meet current B.C. Building Code requirements and should have approved spark arrestors.

Power lines and propane tanks—Vegetation should be cleared well back from power lines, propane tanks and other fuel supplies.

Emergency facilities—FireSmart building sites have adequate emergency vehicle access, with an on-site emergency water supply (pool, pond or tank)

Shovels and rakes—Every home should have shovels, rakes, axes, garden hoses, sprinklers and roof ladders to assist in suppressing wildfires.



Be FireSmart!

Get Ready

Properly preparing your home and community doesn't guarantee that you will not incur fire damage, but it does reduce risks. Obtain insurance coverage for all property at risk from fire—government disaster financial assistance is limited and only covers uninsurable perils.

Some of these preventative measures cost very little and reduce fire damage by a great deal; others require planning and a long-term commitment to change.

Let's look at areas where you can apply FireSmart standards to protect or reduce the damage to your property should a wildfire strike.

Site Preparation

Any kind of vegetation is combustible. Mature trees, shrubs, grass, even your woodpile, are all potential fuels and can easily ignite (increasing the chance of building ignition and loss). Managing the space around your house and building is very important.

Do you have a cleared zone around your house and buildings? The first 10 metres of space around your home is your "First Priority". It's the most critical area to consider for fire protection. A good fuel free space gives firefighters a chance to save your home from an advancing fire. A home without a good fuel free space around it can make firefighting difficult, if not impossible.

What to do? Remove any shrubs, trees, deadfall or woodpiles from this area and keep your grass mowed and watered.

How FireSmart is your "Second Priority" Zone? From 10 to 30 metres out from your home is the second priority zone. In this zone, you need to reduce fuels by thinning and pruning so that combustion cannot be supported.

What to do? Remove trees and debris that can spread fire upwards to become a fast spreading crown fire. Space trees so that crowns of individual trees are 3—6 metres apart.

Remove or reduce the number of evergreen trees in the area. Evergreens such as pine and spruce are much more combustible than deciduous trees. In fact, aspen, poplar and birch all have very low flammability rates.

Remove deadfall, thick shrubbery and mature trees that might provide the opportunity for a ground fire to climb up into the forest canopy. Once a fire crowns out, it's virtually unstoppable.

Can you extend the FireSmart maintenance plan to the "Third Priority" zone? The third priority zone begins 30 metres from any structure and extends to a distance of 100 metres and beyond. The idea here is not to remove all combustible fuels from the forest, but to thin the area so fires will be of low intensity and more easily extinguished.

What to do?

Thin or reduce shrubs or trees that make up the under story, retain fire resistant deciduous trees, space trees (3—6 metres between crowns) to reduce the potential for a crowning fire.

These are simple, economical steps anyone can take to create a FireSmart home, community or business site. For these actions to be effective they must be maintained.

The FireSmart information is reprinted with permission of the BC Provincial Emergency Program. For further information pick up the complete FireSmart manual at City Hall or visit the PEP website at www.pep.bc.ca

FireSmart Protection Plan

- A. Prune tree branches to a height of 2 metres or more
- B. Store firewood 10 metres or more from house (avoid downslope location)
- C. Remove all trees, long grass, shrubs, twigs, etc within 10 metres of house
- D. Thin trees (with 3-6 metre crowns) within 10 metres of house
- E. Contact your utility company if trees or branches encroach on power lines
- F. Grass within 10 metres of buildings should be mowed and watered
- G. Address clearly signed for quick identification by fire service
- H. Driveway is wide enough to accommodate emergency vehicles
- I. Try to provide an alternate emergency access route to your property
- J. Pond or tank with an emergency water supply
- K. Driveway clear of trees to a distance of at least 3—4 metres
- L. Chimney installed to code complete with spark arrestor screens
- M. All eaves enclose and screen all vents including soffits
- N. Undersides of balconies, decks, etc. sheathed in flame resistant materials
- O. Propane tanks located at least 10 metres from building
- P. Use only Class A, B or C fire resistant exterior siding
- Q. Solid shutters or metal firescreens will provide increased fire protection for windows and doors

Sprinkling Regulations

For those consumers connected to the City of Grand Forks water system, outdoor sprinkling is limited to the following days and time:

Those premises with "even" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle on "even" numbered days (ie: 2nd, 4th, 6th, etc.). Those premises with "odd" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle on "odd" numbered days (ie: 1st, 3rd, 5th, etc.).

Between 5:00 am and 10:00 am

Between 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Sprinkling shall be permitted on the 31st day of any month as follows:

Those premises with "odd" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle in the mornings from 5:00 am until 10:00 am. And those premises with "even" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle in the evenings from 5:00 pm until 10:00 pm.

The sprinkling hours are provided to allow for residents to water their properties as their schedules permit. Please don't use more water than required. Over-watering promotes shallow root growth making your lawn less hardy



Automatic timed sprinkling systems

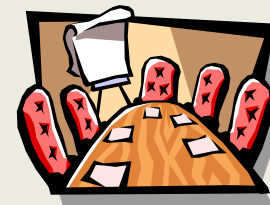
Those City consumers with automatic timed underground sprinkling systems may apply for a permit to vary the sprinkling hours as outlined above. Application for the Sprinkling Variance Permit shall be made to the City on the form contained in "Schedule D" of Bylaw 1501. All automatic timed underground sprinkling systems must include back-flow preventers.

New lawn exemption

Those City consumers establishing new lawns may apply at City Hall for a permit, as contained in "Schedule D" of Bylaw 1501, to vary the sprinkling regulations for a one month period, at the time that the new lawn is planted.

2004 Council Meeting Dates

Monday January 5, 2004
Monday January 19, 2004
Monday February 2, 2004
Monday February 16, 2004
Monday March 1, 2004
Monday March 15, 2004
Monday April 5, 2004
Monday April 19, 2004
Monday May 3, 2004
Monday May 17, 2004
Monday June 7, 2004
Monday June 21, 2004
Monday July 12, 2004
Monday August 16, 2004
Tuesday September 7, 2004
Monday October 4, 2004
Monday October 18, 2004
Monday November 1, 2004
Monday November 15, 2004
Monday December 6, 2004
Monday December 20, 2004



Meeting Date Change

Please note: The regular Council meeting scheduled for Monday July 19th has been re-scheduled to Monday July 12th.

Contact Information:

• General enquiries

City Hall -Phone 442-8266 / Fax 442-8000

Public Works - Phone 442-8266 / Fax 442-8263

• Emergency Phone Numbers

Sewer and Water—442-3355

Electrical—442-2033

Roads—442-9496

Fire—911

(Please note: Non-emergency after hours calls will be charged the call-out overtime rate)