

## **Seeing Wildfire Risk with FireSmart BC**

Wildfire has become an increasingly visible part of life across Western Canada. Our climate is changing, and wildfire seasons are becoming longer and drier. The best way to tackle wildfire preparedness, prevention, and mitigation is to work together.

### **What is FireSmart BC?**

FireSmart BC is a provincial program dedicated to helping British Columbians understand and reduce their wildfire risk. We serve as the go-to resource for individuals, neighbourhoods, and communities looking to protect themselves and their properties.

Homeowners can access guides, checklists, and home assessments to better understand their property's risk, while landscaping professionals can take specialized training to design wildfire-resilient outdoor spaces. Communities can get involved through programs like the [Local FireSmart Collective Program](#), which encourages neighbours to take coordinated action.

FireSmart prioritizes education and awareness at all levels. Through initiatives like Ember's Den, kids and families can learn about wildfire in an engaging way, while educators, local governments, and industry professionals can access tools and training to support their work.

By understanding the risk, we can take meaningful steps towards reducing it.

### **Seeing Through FireSmart Eyes**

Built on decades of research, FireSmart BC focuses on how wildfire behaves around structures and how changes on and around a property can influence outcomes during a wildfire.

Wildfires need fuel—like trees, grass, or other vegetation—to ignite and spread. Wind-driven embers can travel kilometres ahead of a fire front, landing in vulnerable areas such as roofs, gutters, decks, and vegetation close to buildings. These small ignition points are often what lead to structure loss.

Doing tasks such as moving combustible materials away from your home, mowing your lawn, and clearing your gutters can help reduce the risk of your home catching fire. Other great FireSmart tasks include choosing wildfire-resistant vegetation for your gardens and pruning trees. These small, consistent actions help protect entire neighbourhoods.

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If you live in a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area, staying informed during wildfire season is especially important. An easy way to know about active wildfires, fire bans, and other alerts is to download the BC Wildfire Service app from the App Store or Google Play, or visit the [BC Wildfire Service Dashboard](#). You can stay informed and monitor any active evacuation orders or alerts through [Emergency Info BC](#).

Wildfires move fast. Build a grab-and-go bag by packing essentials like identification, medications, chargers, water, clothes, and comfort items. This simple step can make all the difference if you need to leave quickly.

## **Working Together**

Wildfire mitigation is a shared responsibility. When renters, landlords, homeowners, businesses, and all levels of government work together, we can collectively reduce the risk and impact of wildfires across British Columbia.

Landscaping professionals, arborists, and others are increasingly incorporating FireSmart principles into their work by designing spaces that balance beauty, function, and wildfire resilience. Similarly, communities across BC are incorporating FireSmart thinking into planning processes and operations. For those connected to forestry, land management, or resource industries, FireSmart offers an opportunity to extend existing knowledge into new contexts.

Organizations and industry partners can get involved by supporting awareness efforts, incorporating FireSmart principles into projects, or sharing knowledge with clients and employees.

## **Getting Started**

FireSmart BC offers a wide range of resources to support both individuals and organizations:

- Visit [FireSmartBC.ca](#) to learn more about FireSmart BC.
- Get all the resources you need to be prepared at [FireSmartBC.ca/Prepare](#)
- Use the interactive [FireSmart Begins at Home Guide](#) to make your property and neighbourhood FireSmart.
- Follow the [Emergency Wildfire Preparedness Checklist](#) to get ready in the case of evacuation.
- Explore the interactive [Landscaping Hub](#) for an extensive list of fire-resistant plants, tips for creating a FireSmart landscape, and information on the [FireSmart BC Plant Program](#).