

FIRE DEPARTMENT TARGETED RESPONSE TIME IS SIX MINUTES. – A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN SIX MINUTES.



The Urban Reality

The “Urban Reality” is that fire spreading from your neighbour’s house, garden shed or trees puts your home at risk. Regardless of the fire source, you as a homeowner can take steps to protect your property from fire exposures.

FireSmart®

FireSmart guidelines were originally developed to protect Alberta communities located on the interface of natural areas that put them at risk from wildland fires. We have found that these principles are also a good way to reduce risk from fire exposure for urban homes.

Wildland fires – in Calgary?

Some Calgary communities are also at risk from wildland fires originating in forest, brush and grassland areas. Calgary’s parks and natural areas are a beautiful feature of the city; but, the threat of wildland fires is present year-round. A wildland fire does not respect city boundaries or property lines. The fire can feed on grass and trees in a nearby forest, community parks and your yard, and is capable of spreading at an astonishing rate. Large wildfires can send embers two kilometres ahead of the fire front, so the risk from wildland fires exists deep within a city.

Get ready

Properly preparing your home and community doesn’t guarantee you won’t incur fire damage, but it does reduce the risk. Make sure you have adequate insurance on your home and property. A landlord’s fire insurance policy rarely covers a renter’s possessions. Renters should always carry a “Tenant’s Package” insurance policy.

Site preparation

Any kind of vegetation is combustible. Mature trees, shrubs, grass, and even your woodpile can easily ignite and increase the chance of fire damaging your home and property. Managing the space around your home and other structures is of utmost importance.

Do you have a “fuel-free” zone around your house?

The space immediately surrounding your home is a priority zone. A fuel-free space will minimize fire spread and give firefighters a chance to save your home. A home without a fuel-free space can make firefighting difficult, if not impossible.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

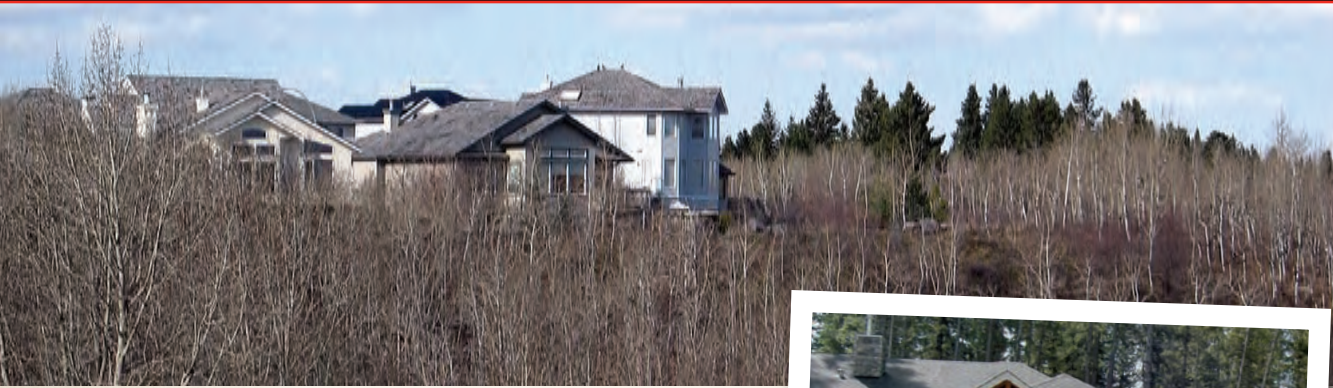
- **Home Hazard Assessment**
www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca/assessments
- **Homeowner’s FireSmart Manual**
www.srd.gov.ab.ca/wildfires/firesmart
- **FireSmart: Protecting Your Community from Wildfire**
This interactive manual provides planners, communities and individuals with the necessary tools in planning and mitigating the risk of interface fires.
www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca/downloads
- **FireSmart CD-ROM**
Learn how you and your community can work together to reduce loss from interface fires.
www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca/cd.php
- **The City of Calgary Fire Department**
A proud member of Partners In Protection
Calgary Fire – Community Safety (403) 287-4296

FireSmart

THE URBAN REALITY



PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM FIRE EXPOSURE



WHAT TO DO?

- Remove flammable trees and shrubs such as pine, spruce and juniper that are close to your home. Other species such as aspen, poplar and birch are less flammable.
- Remove deadfall or woodpiles, and store firewood well away from your house.
- Keep your grass mowed and watered. If possible, lay crushed rock at the base of your house to prevent direct flame contact at ground level.
- Leaves, pine and spruce needles are potential fuel. Keep them off your roof, out of your gutters, off your decks, and away from the foundation of your house.
- Prune shrubs, removing all dead branches.
- De-limb large trees two to three metres from the ground.
- Branches hanging over your roof or touching your house should be trimmed back.
- Talk to your neighbours and help them minimize their risks, which will help minimize yours.



Planning and co-operation

The area extending 10 to 30 metres away from your home is Priority Zone 2. In this zone reduce fuels by thinning and pruning trees so that intense wildfires have less fuel to burn. In urban areas this zone may extend into neighbouring parks or natural areas. FireSmarting these zones requires community and municipal planning.

For more information on Zones 2 and 3, please visit www.partnersinprotection.ca.

Building construction

The second set of FireSmart guidelines deals with building materials and design standards.

While it may not be practical or economical to apply all of them to an existing structure, many FireSmart modifications are easily accomplished. Others can be included in long-term maintenance or renovation plans, and incorporated into the design and construction of new structures.

Is your roof FireSmart?

The most fire-resistant roofing materials are metal, clay tile, and asphalt shingles. Untreated wooden shakes provide no resistance. Keep your roof free of combustible needles, leaves and overhanging branches that can act as fuel for airborne embers.

Are your doors and windows FireSmart?

Be sure to remove flammable fuels within several metres of glazed window and door openings. Tempered, thermal, or smaller double-pane windows will provide far greater protection than single-pane glass.



Is the exterior of your home vulnerable to firebrand ignition?

If you are designing your home, eliminate areas where firebrands (airborne sparks and embers) could accumulate and ignite siding, windowsills, or trim. Exterior siding should be fire resistant and extend from ground level to the roofline.

Underneath decks and porches should be kept clear of debris and the undersides should be sheathed with fire resistance material.

Are your exterior walls FireSmart?

Materials such as stucco, metal, brick, and concrete offer superior resistance to fire. While logs and heavy timbers offer a moderate amount of resistance, wood and vinyl siding offer very little resistance to fire.

Eaves and vents are openings that can allow heat and embers to enter a building and ignite. Ensure eaves are closed in and screen all vents and soffits.

Take steps to protect your property from fire exposures – be FireSmart.