

Three Features of a Wildfire-Ready Community.

Communities can integrate wildfire-ready features into their risk management plans to limit damage and disruption due to wildfire events and strengthen emergency preparedness. By working with Provincial/Territorial wildfire agencies and municipal/structural fire departments, communities can access available tools, training, and resources to help them assess their unique risks, and create customized action plans.

Feature 1: Wildfire-Ready Structures and Infrastructure.

1.1) Complete regular maintenance of structures, infrastructure, and landscaping within 10 meters to limit accumulation of flammable materials such as leaves, brush piles, stored items, and fuel tanks.

1.2) Install or replace landscaping with fire resistant materials within 10 meters of structures and infrastructure.

1.3) Build and update structures and infrastructure using fire resistant building materials for example class A roofing or metal roofs, non-combustible siding, metal, or concrete hydro poles.

1.4) Design and update structures and infrastructure to be ignition resistant, for example five meters distance between vegetation and power lines, power supply lines below ground where feasible.

Feature 2: Wildfire-Ready Community Design.

2.1) Integrate minimum 30-meter-wide zones, also called fire breaks, featuring ignition resistant materials like mowed grasses, ponds, and roads into community design to limit the spread of fire. Increase minimum to 50 meters on steep slopes.

2.2) Provide greater spatial separation between structures in hazard areas to limit the spread of fire from one structure to another.

2.3) Require minimum 10 meters of setback from the crest of a hill to limit spread of fire to structures.

2.4) Restrict development in hazard areas where mitigation measures cannot meet minimum standards for health, safety, and environmental protection.

Feature 3: Wildfire-Ready Emergency Response.

3.1) Complete annual emergency planning and cross-training exercises that include multiple agencies such as wildland and structural firefighters.

3.2) Designate at least one emergency shelter per community.

3.3) Ensure minimum water supply for firefighters.

3.4) Provide two or more suitably sized access and egress routes to accommodate the movement of emergency vehicles.

Note: The guidance in this document is voluntary. Completion of actions should not conflict with applicable building and fire codes. Wildfire-ready communities can reduce but not eliminate risk.

For more information and resources visit www.intactcentre.ca