

Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management Forum



FireSmart Presentation

October 28, 2025

Presentation Overview

- What is FireSmart?
- Principles of FireSmart
- Home Ignition Zone

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What is FireSmart?

- Program that provides recommendations to neighbourhoods to reduce the risk of wildfire
- Based on 7 principles designed to make living in the wildland urban interface safer
- Provides people with the knowledge and organizational means to reduce their homes vulnerability to wildfire.

FireSmart Principles

- Education
- Fuel Management
- Legislation
- FireSmart Planning
- Development
- Training
- Inter-Agency Cooperation

Education

- Increase awareness of wildfire risk
- Risk mitigation options

With a Goal To:

- Reduce the number of human caused wildfires
- Build capacity to better manage wildfire events
- Gain support for mitigation work to become a wildfire resilient community

Education Examples

- Signs
- Pamphlets
- Website
- Field Assessments
- Presentations
- Newsletters
- Smokey Bear and Sparky Visits
- Demonstration Sites

Fuel Management

- Reducing wildfire risk by:
 - Thinning
 - Pruning
 - Removing deadfall
 - Spring and fall cleanup
 - Regular yard maintenance

Matheson Lake (Meadow Lake Provincial Park)



Candle Lake



Potato Lake



Legislation

Wildfire Act: 2015

- Requirement for Burn Notification System
- Wildfire Prevention & Preparedness Plans
- Fire Bans

Parks Act & Bylaws

- FireSmart Planning and Development
- Limit size of fire pits, restrict burning barrels
- Tree removal & planting policies
- Fire Bans, Fireworks Ban, Flying Lantern Ban

FireSmart Planning and Development

- FireSmart for New Development – guidelines by builders to make new homes FireSmart
- Green Spaces
- Building Construction
- Infrastructure: Hydrants, roadways (wide enough for two way access), signage...
- Vegetation Options (prioritize non flammable vegetation in the home ignition zone)
- Walkways / Hiking paths



Training & Equipment

Build capacity with safety being first priority

- X – Train: structural and wildfire suppression
- Wildfire Training
- Appropriate PPE and WF Equipment
- Local FireSmart Representative Training
- Community Champion Training





Interagency Cooperation

- X-Training
- Communication Links
- Relationship Building
- Equipment Demo's
- Prescribed burns

FireSmarting your home



FireSmart Actions in the Home Ignition Zone

MITIGATED PROPERTY

Immediate and Intermediate Zones
0 – 10 m

Clean
gutter

Mowed
grass

Leaf litter, branches, and other
ground fuels removed

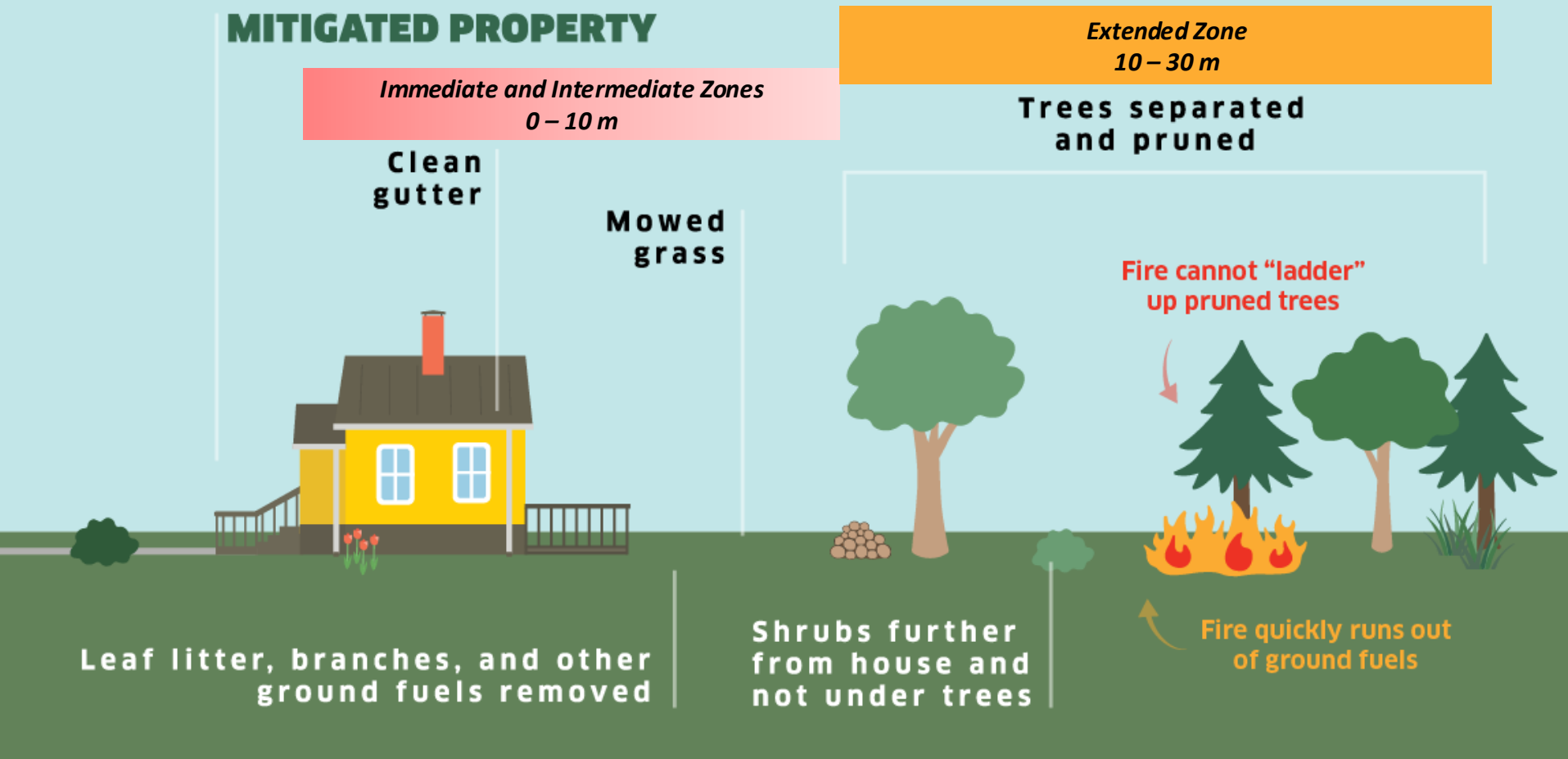
Extended Zone
10 – 30 m

Trees separated
and pruned

Fire cannot “ladder”
up pruned trees

Fire quickly runs out
of ground fuels

Shrubs further
from house and
not under trees



Home Ignition Zone



THERE ARE MANY FACTORS THAT MAY IMPACT YOUR PROPERTY'S RISK TO WILDFIRE

Check out the *FireSmart Begins at Home Guide* for an in-depth look at how you can build wildfire resiliency.

IMMEDIATE ZONE

0m to 1.5m

The Immediate Zone is a non-combustible area that starts at the house and extends to a 1.5 metre perimeter around the home and attached structures, including decks. Reduce the chance of wind-blown embers igniting your home by starting with these proactive steps:

- Choose non-combustible building materials when constructing or renovating your home.
- Clear vegetation and combustible material down to mineral soil and cover with non-combustible materials like gravel, brick, or concrete.
- Avoid planting woody shrubs or trees. If any are present, prune and maintain them regularly.

INTERMEDIATE ZONE

1.5m to 10m

Elements in the Intermediate Zone are managed so they don't transmit fire to your home. Here are a few actions you can take to reduce your home's vulnerability:

- Plant fire-resistant vegetation and select non-combustible landscaping materials.
- Avoid incorporating any woody debris, including mulch.
- Keep combustible items like firewood piles, construction materials, patio furniture, tools, and decorative pieces out of this zone.
- Move trailers, recreational vehicles, storage sheds, and other combustible structures into the Extended Zone. If that is not possible, store firewood inside your mitigated garage, shed, or other ember-resistant structures.
- Create a non-combustible ground cover, like a gravel pad, underneath and 1.5 metres around trailers, recreational vehicles, and sheds.

EXTENDED ZONE

10m to 30m

The goal in the Extended Zone is not to eliminate fire, but to reduce its intensity. If your property extends into this zone, a few important steps you can take include:

- Selectively remove evergreen trees to create at least 3 metres of horizontal space between the single or grouped tree crowns.
- Remove all branches to a height of 2 metres from the ground.
- Regularly clean up accumulations of fallen branches, dry grass, and needles to eliminate potential surface fuels.
- Continue to apply these principles if your property extends beyond 30m. Work with your neighbours in overlapping zones and seek guidance of a forest professional if affected by other conditions, like steep slopes.

Immediate Zone– Home Zone

- Roof - Class A fire rated roof such as metal or asphalt are good. Cedar shakes bad.
- Chimney - Spark arrestor installed
- Gutters - Regular removal of debris from gutters
- Eaves and Vents - Fire rated vents along with properly fitted soffit and fascia.
- Siding - Fire resistant siding is best – Stucco/metal/concrete/log. Untreated wood or vinyl siding rates poorly against wildfire
- Windows – Tempered, thermal (Double pane) windows are recommended
- Doors – Should be fire rated with a good seal
- Ground to Siding Clearance – should have 15 centimeters between the ground and siding
- Decks – Should be skirted in to reduce risk of embers igniting beneath your deck
- Other – Fence Lines, Sheds



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Intermediate Zone– Your Yard (1.5-10 m from house)

- Landscaping – avoid woody debris such as mulch and plant fire resistant plants
- Type of Plants – Planting fire resistant plants
- Grass – mowed, trimmed and shorter than 10 centimeters
- Bark Mulch and Pine Needles – do not use as they are highly flammable
- Firewood Piles – do not stack against house/shed as piles are a major fire hazard
- Burn Barrels and Fire Pits – far from structures and trees and screened in with 6mm or finer wire mesh to prevent ember transport
- Fire Tools – It is advisable to have easily accessible tools such as shovels, rakes, axes along with garden hoses and sprinklers to assist in wildfire suppression if needed.



Extended Zone – (10-30m)

- Evergreen Tree Spacing
- Tree Pruning

Uranium City Fuel Management 2021-2022



FireSmart Programs

FireSmart 101

- Introductory course to FireSmart
- Helps Participants understand the need to protect homes and properties from wildfire
- Defines the wildland urban interface (WUI)
- Outlines the seven FireSmart Disciplines
- Explains the FireSmart home ignition zone



FireSmart Begins at Home

Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre

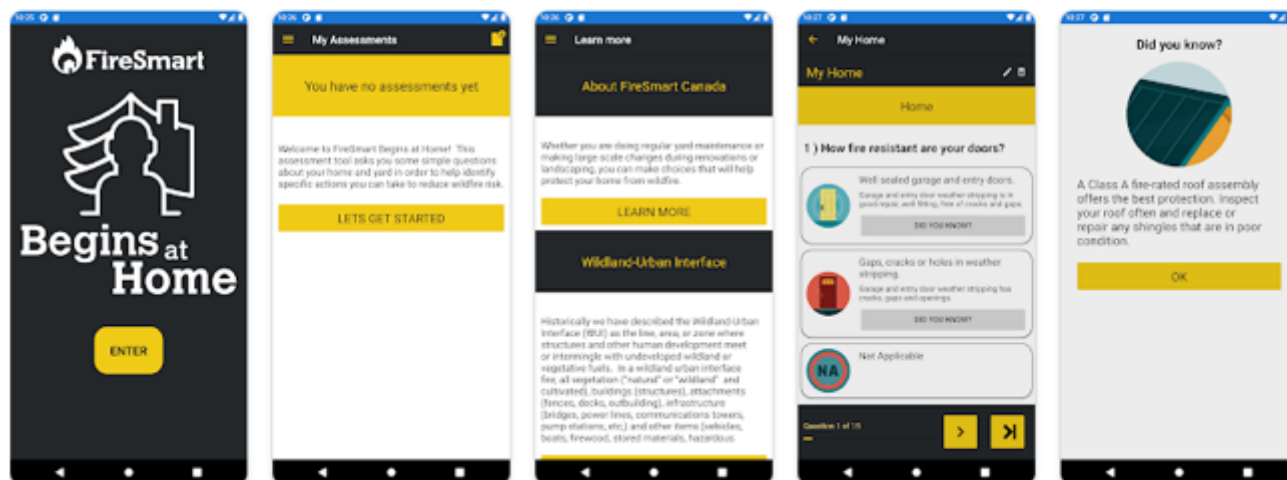
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Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

2023 – 13 Communities awarded \$500 dollar grant to hold a wildfire preparedness event (cleanup day)

2024 – 5 communities awarded \$500 dollar grant, 1 FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program renewal (\$750)

2025 – 22 communities awarded \$500 dollar grant, 3 FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program renewal (\$750)





- 2024 Keeseekoose First Nation Wildfire Community Preparedness Day.
- Won the 2024 FireSmart Canada photo contest - \$500.00 award.

Questions?

- [FireSmart Canada | FireSmart Canada leads the development of resources and programs designed to empower the public and increase neighbourhood resilience to wildfire across Canada.](#)
- [Home | SPSA \(saskpublicsafety.ca\)](#)