

# PREVENTION ZONES

## NON-COMBUSTIBLE ZONE (0 - 1.5 METRES)

- A non-combustible surface should extend 1.5 metres around the entire home and any attachments, such as decks. This can be as easy as clearing vegetation and combustible material down to soil.
- You can also use non-combustible materials such as gravel, brick, or concrete in this critical area.
- Woody shrubs, trees or tree branches should be avoided.

## ZONE 1 (1.5 - 10 METRES)

- Select a low density of fire-resistant plants and shrubs. Plants to avoid are cedar, juniper, pine, spruce, tall grass.
- Avoid having any woody debris, including mulch, as it provides potential places for fires to start or spread.
- Move firewood piles, trailers/ recreational vehicles, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of this zone and into Zone 2.
- Clear debris from roof, gutters.

## ZONE 2 (10 - 30 METRES)

- Thin and prune evergreen trees to reduce hazard. Selectively remove evergreen trees to create at least 3 m. space between tree crowns and remove all branches to a height of 2 m. from the ground.
- Regularly clean up accumulations of fallen branches, dry grass, leaves, and needles from on the ground to eliminate potential surface fuels.
- Avoid pine, spruce, cedar and fir in this zone.

## ZONE 3 (30 - 100 METRES)

- Look for opportunities to create a fire break by creating space between trees and other potentially flammable vegetation.
- Thinning and pruning is effective here as well. These actions will help reduce the intensity of a wildfire.

FireSmart Canada - Begins at Home Manual



# WILDFIRE READY

## LEARN FROM RECENT TRAGEDY

*Scientists examined the Fort McMurray fire and concluded that few homes caught fire due to direct contact with the flames or heat from the burning forest. The fire spread so quickly into areas with homes because embers ignited combustible material such as dry grass, leaves, pine needles, fences, patio decks, wood piles, evergreens and shrubs that were too close to homes. Moreover, some homes that were fire resistant did not burn, while others around them did.*

*More detailed information is available on our website, including links to resources.*

**WestCarletonRelief.ca**

**WestCarletonRelief@gmail.com**

*Prepared by West Carleton Disaster Relief, with funding from the Canadian Red Cross.*

**Let's all be fire smart and work together to reduce the risk across our West Carleton community.**

# WILDFIRE READY

*What to do before, during and after a Wildfire*

*Many homes in West Carleton are near forested areas and grasslands, and all of us cherish our closeness to nature. The risk of wildfires is increasing, but you, as a homeowner, can take steps to plan ahead and protect yourself, your home and properties, and those of your neighbours.*



# BEFORE A WILDFIRE



## PREVENTION

In wildfires, most homes that burn are started by wind-blown sparks and embers that can travel up to 2 km. in a forest fire. Think about where they might land around your home, and take steps to reduce this risk. Report any suspicious fires to the Fire Department - 613-232-1551

## PERMIT

Obtain a City of Ottawa Fire permit online and follow the rules. A small campfire, chiminea or outdoor fireplace should be at least 5 metres from houses, trees, fences, structures, etc.

## BE PREPARED - PLAN AHEAD

Assemble an emergency supply kit long before a disaster strikes, with supplies for 72 hours. Complete your Family Disaster Plan to plan how you would respond to an evacuation order from the Fire Chief. For Kit and Plan details see [WestCarletonRelief.ca](http://WestCarletonRelief.ca)

## IS THERE A FIRE BAN?

Call Fire Services (613-580-2880) before starting your fire to check for a fire ban and receive your reference number to proceed.

## BRUSH FIRES

Yearly Open Air Fire permit required; allowed only in rural areas, not within village boundaries. Follow the rules of the City's Open Air Fire By-law 2004-163; e.g. Constant watch and control by an adult over 18.

## EXTINGUISH FIRE

Pre-position a garden hose and a shovel ready to use in case the fire gets out of control. When done, make sure your fire is out by spraying thoroughly with water.

# DURING A WILDFIRE



## ENACT PLAN

You already have an Emergency Supply Kit and a Family Disaster Plan. Make sure your family understands what they have to do and where to go.

## ENSURE YOUR VEHICLE IS READY

Back your vehicle ready to go in the driveway. Put your emergency supplies in the car.

## LISTEN TO LOCAL NEWS

Follow the directions provided by the authorities. Follow local news media. Call a designated relative or friend, so they can tell loved ones that you are safe.

## STAND BY TO EVACUATE

Stand by to evacuate and remember: don't take unnecessary risks.

## STAY OFF THE PHONE

Stay off the phone as much as possible to help the emergency services.

## BE SAFE

Property can be replaced but human lives cannot.

# AFTER A WILDFIRE



## DO NOT ENTER YOUR HOUSE

Only enter your house once authorities say it is safe to do so.

## DOCUMENT DAMAGE

Take a visual inventory of damage both outside and inside. First, walk the perimeter of your property to check if there has been damage to the foundation, the roof or any utility lines. When you enter, look at the floors and ceiling to ensure they are not drooping. Document details of any damage. Then, contact your insurance provider to share this information.

## DO NOT OPERATE APPLIANCES

If the appliances are wet or damaged, do not operate them.

## CHECK YOUR WELL AND SUMP

Verify that your sump pump and well are in working condition.

## LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IF:

If there are any residual burning embers, and/or if you smell gas or smoke, leave immediately and inform the fire department.

## CHECK FOR UPDATES

Go to [WestCarletonRelief.ca](http://WestCarletonRelief.ca) for updates.