

# A well thought out FireSmart protection plan



## The Rural Reality



It's your home. You and your neighbours can reduce the threat to your property from wildfire by learning about FireSmart and following the recommended best practices.

For more information about protecting your home and community from wildfire, contact your local fire department or Ministry of Natural Resources, Fire Management office.

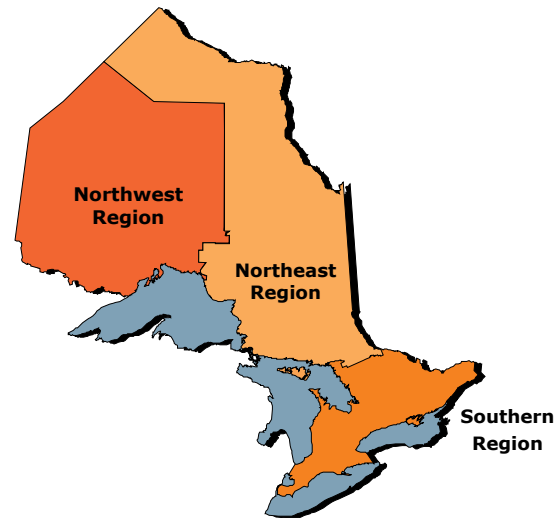
### Emergency Phone Numbers

Find and copy down the emergency numbers for your area and keep them in a visible area close to your telephone.

Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Police: \_\_\_\_\_

- A** Prune tree branches to a height of 1 or 2 metres
- B** Store fire wood well away from the house
- C** Remove evergreen trees within 10 metres of house
- D** Trees thinned (crowns don't touch) for at least 30 metres from the house
- E** Branches are clear of power lines (if possible bury power service)
- F** Remove brush, mow and water lawn
- G** Your name and lot number clearly visible for quick identification
- H** Driveway is wide enough to accommodate emergency vehicles
- I** Provide additional emergency exit
- J** Pond or cistern with emergency water supply
- K** A FireSmart ash pit or burning barrel
- L** Driveway clear of trees to a distance of at least 3 or 4 metres
- M** Chimney installed to code complete with spark arrestor screens
- N** All soffit vents and gutters should be screened
- O** Porches and balconies screened, crawl spaces enclosed
- P** Position propane tank with valve pointing away from house
- Q** Fire resistant exterior roof and walls
- R** Protective drapes and or shutters on windows to protect interior from radiant heat



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### To report a wildfire call:

Northwestern Ontario

**1-888-284- FIRE (3473)**

Northeastern Ontario

**1-888-863- FIRE (3473)**

Central and Southern Ontario:

Call 911 or your local municipal fire service



Wildfires can spread at an astonishing rate – up to 15 kilometres an hour under the right conditions.

Ontario averages 1,350 wildfires each year, consuming over 125,000 hectares of land annually. In some cases, families have been evacuated from their communities and homes or cottages have been destroyed.

If you live in a forested or grassy area called the wildland urban interface, you may have to contend with the threat of a wildland fire. Of course the best protection against personal injury or damage to property is preventing wildfires. But there are things you can do to reduce the chances of losing your home when a wildfire occurs.

### FireSmart Your Property

#### Manage the vegetation around your home

- Reduce shrubs, evergreen trees, dead material within 10 metres of your buildings
- Thin and prune trees within 10 to 30 metres
- Ensure power lines are clear of tree limbs
- Plant fire resistant plants

#### Use FireSmart building materials

- Brick, stucco, metal siding, metal roofing or asphalt shingles should be used on new construction or remodelling projects
- Enclose decks, porches and vents

#### Burn carefully

- Use a proper burn barrel with screened cover
- Have safe campfires
- Ensure chimneys are screened
- Store firewood away from buildings

#### FireSmart tools – Be prepared

- Have shovels, rakes, garden hose and sprinklers on hand
- Ladders to access roof
- Have a fire plan

Visit [Ontario.ca/fireprevention](http://Ontario.ca/fireprevention) for contact information or a copy of the *FireSmart Homeowner Manual*.

**Take the FireSmart  
Home Assessment Test**

# FireSmart Home Assessment Form

Do your own home and site hazard assessment by assigning your property points for each assessment area. The fewer points you get, the more prepared your property is to successfully survive a wildfire. For information on how to address the problem areas refer to the *FireSmart Home Owners Manual* or contact your local fire department or Ministry of Natural Resources fire management office.

Important Factors	Characteristics of Materials	Point Rating	Your Points
<b>What kind of roofing material do you have?</b>	Asphalt, metal, tile, ULC rated shakes	0	
	Unrated wood shakes	30	
<b>How clean is your roof?</b>	No needles, leaves or other combustible materials	0	
	Scattering of needles and leaves	2	
	Clogged gutters and extensive leaf and needle litter	3	
<b>What is the exterior of your home built out of?</b>	Non combustible material, stucco, brick, metal siding	0	
	Logs or heavy timbers	1	
	Wood, vinyl siding or wood shakes	6	
<b>Are your eaves and vents closed up and screened?</b>	Closed eaves and vents with 3 mm wire mesh	0	
	Closed eaves and vents with no mesh	1	
	Open eaves, open vents	6	
<b>Have you screened in your balcony, deck or porch?</b>	All deck, balconies and porches are screened or sheathed in fire resistant material	0	
	All decks, balconies and porches are screened or sheathed with non combustible material	2	
	Decks, balconies and porches are not screened or sheathed in	6	
<b>How fire resistant are your windows and doors?</b>	Tempered glass in all doors/windows	0	
	Double pane glass: (small/medium) or (large)	1 or 2	
	Single pane glass: (small/medium) or (large)	2 or 4	
<b>Where is your woodpile located?</b>	More than 10 metres from any building	0	
	Between 3 and 10 metres from any building	3	
	Less than 3 metres from any building	6	
<b>Is your home set back from the edge of a slope</b>	Building located on the bottom portion of a hill	0	
	Located on the mid to upper portion or crest of a hill	6	
<b>What type of forest surrounds your home, and how far away is it?</b>  <b>Must complete 10 m and 10-30 m</b>	Deciduous trees (poplar, birch) within 10 metres	0	
	Deciduous trees 10-30 metres from any building	0	
	Mixed wood (poplar, birch, spruce, pine) within 10 metres	30	
	Mixed wood 10-30 metres from buildings	3	
	Conifers (spruce, pine) within 10 metres of building separated or abundant	30	
	Conifers within 10-30 metres of buildings separated or abundant	10 or 30	
<b>What kind of vegetation grows in the zone around your buildings?</b>  <b>Must complete 10 m and 10-30 m</b>	Well watered lawn or non combustible landscaping material	0	
	Uncut wild grass or shrubs within (10 m) or within (10-30 m) of building	30 or 3	
	Dead and down woody debris within 10 metres of buildings scattered or abundant	30	
	Dead and down woody material within 10-30 metres of buildings (scattered) or (abundant)	3 or 30	
<b>Are there abundant underbrush and ladder fuels in the surrounding forest?</b>	None within 10 metres or within 10-30 metres of buildings	0	
	Scattered within 10 metres or within 10-30 metres of buildings	4 or 3	
	Abundant within 10 metres or within 10-30 metres of buildings	10 or 7	
	<b>The Wildfire Hazard Value for your home is:</b>	<b>Total Points</b>	

## Hazard Risk Assessment

Low <21 points

Moderate 21-29 points

High 30-35 points

Extreme >35 points

## For more information visit the following websites:

[www.ontario.ca/fireprevention](http://www.ontario.ca/fireprevention) • [www.ofm.gov.on.ca](http://www.ofm.gov.on.ca)

[www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca](http://www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca)