



# PREP DAY 2021!

## A toolkit for neighbourhoods





# PROJECT IDEAS

## SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Rake and remove pine needles, dry leaves and combustible debris from within 1.5 metres of neighbourhood homes. As time permits, continue up to a 10-metre distance around each home.
- Grab a measuring tape and see how close wood piles are located to homes. Woodpiles must be at least 10 metres from structures.
- Clear leaves, needles and debris from roofs and gutters.
- Sweep porches and decks, clearing them of leaves, pine needles and combustible debris. Rake under decks, porches, sheds and play structures, and dispose of debris.
- On mature trees, use hand pruners and loppers to remove low-hanging branches up to two metres from the ground (be careful not to remove more than one-third of the branches).
- Collect downed tree branches and take them to a disposal site.
- Move items under decks and porches to garages, basements or sheds that are enclosed with screened vents (maximum three-millimetre screening) to prevent ember intrusion.
- Screen or box-in areas below decks with wire screening (no larger than three millimetres) to help keep embers out during a fire.
- Work with neighbours to assess homes and properties using the FireSmart Begins at Home app. Help each other perform recommended activities or simple, cost-free renovations.



- Pool neighbourhood resources to pay for a chipper service to remove slash.
- Spend the day with neighbours building or updating 72-hour emergency kits for each family.
- Work with neighbours to ensure that the addresses of all homes in the neighbourhood are visible from the street.
- Help neighbours with mobility challenges FireSmart their homes.
- Locate two routes out of your neighbourhood (besides the one normally used); plan and practise an evacuation drill.
- Work with local emergency management authorities to develop and practise a neighbourhood evacuation plan.
- Work with neighbours to develop a phone or text tree to alert everyone about a fire or evacuation.
- Invite a horticulturist to review the [FireSmart Guide to Landscaping](#) with you and your neighbours and suggest which types of FireSmart plants might work best in your neighbourhood.
- Identify and remove high flammability plants (Junipers and Cedars) from within 1.5 metres of neighbourhood homes.



# SAFETY

## TIPS

**WORK TOGETHER:** Many projects are best accomplished by two or more people. It's always good to work in pairs.

**BENDING:** Keep feet shoulder-width apart and move your whole body as one unit; bend at the hips and knees, not at your waist.

**LIFTING:** If an object is too difficult to lift, ask a friend for help. Use slow, smooth movements while lifting and keep your body facing the object. Twisting can hurt your back. Keep the load close to your body between your shoulders and waist.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:** Take special caution when moving and storing hazardous items (gasoline, portable propane tanks, etc.). Many products can be dangerous if handled or stored incorrectly, and can harm your health and the environment. Contact local and/or provincial/territorial authorities for more information.

**HAND TOOLS:** Always wear eye protection. Handle sharp-edged and pointed tools carefully, keeping them close to your side, and with the points and heavy ends downward; never carry sharp hand tools in your pocket. Discard tools that are loose, cracked or broken.

**AWARENESS:** Minors should never accept a stranger's invitation to enter a home unless accompanied by a trusted adult or group leader.



# SAFETY

## GEAR

**PPE:** Always follow good safety practices, including wearing the proper clothing and personal protective equipment, especially when operating power tools.

**EXTREMITIES:** Wear work gloves, trim-fitting, long pants and shirts, and non-slip, closed-toed shoes.

**EYES:** Always wear eye protection/safety goggles.

**EARS:** Industrial style ear plugs/ear muffs need to be worn in loud work areas.

**HEAD:** If you are cutting overhead branches, wear a hardhat.

