



## FireSmart Discipline: emergency planning



The FireSmart discipline devoted to emergency planning encourages governments, stakeholders, First Nations and other groups to participate in the process by combining local knowledge and wildfire management expertise.

Emergency planning can be applied on a variety of levels, including government initiatives, work done at the community level, and the time and effort that individual British Columbians invest in their own emergency plans.

Government programs to support community wildfire resiliency require a multi-pronged approach that starts with emergency planning. They also provide funding, expertise, and guidance where needed. Planning at this level includes developing emergency plans, mutual-aid agreements, resource inventories, training programs and emergency communication systems.

Another aspect of emergency planning occurs at the community level. (Is my neighbourhood prepared for a wildfire?) Protecting your property and other properties from wildfire damage often depends on you and others supporting and promoting the FireSmart program. (Are my neighbours willing to work with me, so we can become a FireSmart Community?)

The FireSmart program emphasizes that wildfire risk mitigation is a “shared responsibility” and that emergency planning principles can, and should, apply to all citizens. Questions you should consider include:

- What is your emergency plan?
- Do you have an evacuation plan prepared for your family?
- Do you have a “grab and go” bag ready, in case you must leave your home in a hurry?
- Does your home insurance renew in the winter months? (A wildfire burning nearby may affect your ability to purchase or renew your home insurance during the wildfire season).
- Have you used FireSmart principles to help protect your home and property?

For a great checklist on emergency planning, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-your-hazards/wildfires>

The BC Wildfire Service is involved in all three levels of emergency planning and is a strong advocate for the adoption and implementation of the

seven FireSmart disciplines. Its staff actively support (and provide expertise to) government and community organizations by assisting with the development of emergency plans. They often participate in tabletop exercises, run scenarios and get involved in planning meetings that focus on emergency responses to wildfires.

Our staff and crews work regularly with the First Nations’ Emergency Services Society, Emergency Management BC, local governments, indigenous communities and other stakeholders. The BC Wildfire Service promotes the FireSmart program and distributes information about it (including helpful brochures) through the BC FireSmart webpage at: <https://firesmartbc.ca/>

## Predictive Services

The BC Wildfire Service’s Predictive Services Unit’s products and tools help staff make operational decisions during the wildfire season, based on wildfire risk. These products and tools are also useful for planning risk mitigation projects on the landscape and near communities.

The BC Wildfire Service’s Predictive Services Unit brings together experts from multiple ministries and agencies within the provincial government to help forecast and mitigate wildfire risks, based on the best available science.

The Predictive Services Unit includes specialists from:

- regional wildfire operations
- fire prevention (regional and provincial staff)
- wildfire recovery (regional operations)
- research and innovation
- geospatial services (GIS and mapping)
- Office of the Chief Information Officer (Integrated Data Division)
- Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology (DataBC, Innovate BC)

The primary focus of the Predictive Services Unit is to manage the fire behaviour program, introducing new technology and operational innovations as they become available. The unit also supports the fire weather and geospatial programs within the BC Wildfire Service.

To read recent wildfire seasonal outlooks for B.C., visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/wildfire-situation>

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To obtain copies of the FireSmart Homeowner’s Manual to share with your community go to: <https://firesmartbc.ca/>

**COMING SOON: New Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning framework**

A comprehensive review of representative Community Wildfire Protection Plans from throughout B.C. is now underway to assess how well they incorporate the seven FireSmart disciplines. One of the goals of this review is to help communities learn more about FireSmart disciplines that haven't been included as frequently as others in Community Wildfire Protection Plans (e.g. development considerations), so communities can benefit from including them in future plans.

This review is an opportunity to learn from previous Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and current science related to community wildfire resiliency, and then use that information to develop the new Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning (CWRP) process.

The Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning framework is expected to be implemented by spring 2020 and will be linked directly to Crown land planning activities led by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and by BC Parks.

This new framework will eventually replace the Community Wildfire Protection Plan system. However, an existing Community Wildfire Protection Plan will remain valid until the community develops a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

This change will better support the Community Resiliency Investment program and how it aligns with the seven FireSmart disciplines. It will also benefit communities by incorporating lessons learned from recent interface fires, current community wildfire planning practices (both in Canada and in the U.S.) and the latest science on how to reduce the chances of a structure igniting when a wildfire occurs.

A key shift in the Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning framework is increased engagement of indigenous and non-indigenous communities in developing the actual planning process. The goals are to ensure that the final plan: incorporates local knowledge; is easily understood; is accessible to the community; and meaningful to the people who live there.

The BC Wildfire Service and the BC FireSmart

Committee will be hosting a series of workshops in October 2019 to help communities understand and take advantage of the new Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning framework. Topics will include:

- developing community capacity and leadership related to wildfire risk management
- FireSmart activities on private land and near critical infrastructure
- development permit area planning to help reduce wildfire risks
- inter-agency collaboration through regional FireSmart committees
- other FireSmart activities

In addition, two webinars will be scheduled for people who cannot attend a workshop in person. Follow-up surveys will be available to provide feedback.

Consultations with indigenous communities, non-indigenous communities, fuel management practitioners, forest professionals, members of the public and other key stakeholders are fundamental to the success of this review, to ensure that the Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning framework reflects local knowledge and incorporates what we've learned from recent interface fires.

**Save the Date****Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning Workshop**

sponsored by BC Wildfire Service and the BC FireSmart Committee

**Vancouver: Tuesday, October 15 – Four Points Sheraton  
Richmond**

**Williams Lake: Wednesday, October 16 – Ramada Inn**

**Cranbrook: Friday, October 18 – Heritage Inn**

**Smithers: Monday, October 21 – Hudson Bay Lodge**

**Fort St. John: Wednesday, October 23 – Holiday Inn**

**Kelowna: Friday, October 25 – Coast Hotel**

**Pre-registration Survey Link**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7CNPG8V>

**Registration**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/planning-wildfire-resilient-communities-in-british-columbia-workshop-registration-71542125423>

## 2019 Funding Recipients—Coastal Fire Centre

Communities who have applied for and received funding in 2019 through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program and Forest Enhancement Society of BC for fuel mitigation projects, FireSmart education programs, and other activities to help protect their communities from wildfire are:

Island Municipality of Bowen Island	District of Mission
City of Campbell River	Mount Waddington Regional District
Capital Regional District	Nanaimo Regional District
District Municipality of Central Saanich	Municipality of North Cowichan
City of Coquitlam	District of North Saanich
Cowichan Tribes	North Vancouver District
Cowichan Valley Regional District	Nuxalk First Nation
City of Delta	City of Port Moody
Fraser Valley Regional District	qathet Regional District (Powell River)
Town of Gibsons	Spuzzum First Nation
Halalt First Nation	Town of Squamish
Homalco First Nation	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Town of Lake Cowichan	Strathcona Regional District
Lake Cowichan First Nation	Sunshine Coast Regional District
City of Langford	Wei Wai Kum First Nation
City of Maple Ridge	Resort Municipality of Whistler

## New FireSmart Manuals

A new printing of the British Columbia FireSmart manual 'FireSmart Begins at Home' is now available through the BC FireSmart website.

Some of the changes include:

- Updated photos
- A change to the name of Priority Zone 1a to the 'Non-combustible Zone'.
- Updated contact information, and
- A new look.

The new manual will be available through the BC FireSmart website at: <https://firesmartbc.ca/resource-ordering-form/>. We ask that when you receive the new version of the manual you recycle any you have not distributed.



**ASSESS YOUR RISK FROM WILDFIRE**



## EcoSystem Restoration Prescribed Fire



A planned ignition went ahead on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, in Metchosin at Rocky Point on Department of National Defense property. The project was intended to enhance a Garry Oak ecosystem and remove invasive species. Crews were able to go ahead with the burn only when conditions were deemed safe to do so.

Dan Taudin-Chabot, Wildfire Technician was interviewed by CBC Radio prior to the event; you can hear his interview here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/prescribed-burns-garry-oaks-1.5272643>



## Forest Enhancement Society of BC

In February 2016, the BC Government announced the formation of a new organization called the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC). Initially FESBC was granted \$85 million from the BC Government to prevent and mitigate the impact of wildfire and to build and sustain healthy forests.

According to the most recent [FESBC Application Guide 2018/2019](#) project 'priority is for proposals focused on Wildfire Risk Reduction Treatments'.

Wildfire Risk Reduction/Mitigation projects on Provincial Crown Land (within municipal administrative boundaries) are to be submitted to UBCM through the Community Resiliency Investment Programs application process after consulting with a Wildfire Prevention Officer at a fire centre. The expertise that BCWS is important as the technical input will help the applicants meet the eligibility requirements and stand a better chance of the projects success.

The maximum proposal funding limit is \$1.5 million dollars and all projects are subject to site visits during and post operations. For additional information read the 'Note to Applicants Intake 6': <https://fesbc.ca/pdf/note-applicants-intake-6.pdf>

## Community Resiliency Investment

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program was launched in 2018 and is intended to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire to communities in BC through community funding, supports and priority fuel management activities on provincial Crown land. The program is administered by BC Wildfire Service and to date more than 120 First Nations and local governments have received funding.

A new funding intake has been announced with a deadline of October 18, 2019. Information about the program and what kind of projects will be supported can be found at: <https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Funding~Programs/LGPS/CRI/cri-2020-program-guide.pdf>.

Activities eligible for funding include:

- Education
- Planning
- Development Considerations
- Interagency Cooperation
- Emergency Planning
- Cross-training
- FireSmart Demonstration Projects
- FireSmart Activities for Residential Areas

'The 2020 intake of projects is designed to fund FireSmart activities in all eligible communities. Funding is scaled to offer eligible applicants with lower risk of wildfire to apply for up to \$25,000 and applicants with a demonstrated higher risk of wildfire to apply for up to \$150,000 per year'. For more information go to: <https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-resiliency-investment.html>.

## Prevention Blog

Hello All,

With the recent rainfall and cooler temperatures, the Coastal Fire Centre has removed the Category 2 backyard burning prohibition and associated restricted activities effective at noon on Wednesday, September 18th. As there was not a campfire prohibition (Category 1) nor an industrial prohibition (Category 3) this summer in the Coastal Fire Centre, the rescindment of the Category 2 burning prohibition means that the Coastal Fire Centre currently has no prohibitions on open burning. As always, the public is asked to check with local authorities if planning to have an open burn, in case local governments have their own burn restrictions still in place.

The timing of allowing backyard burning is an often debated topic, so we want to share the factors that go into determining if a prohibition should be removed. Many things are taken into consideration, including forecast weather, current fire load and fire crew availability. Since backyard burns, if they escape, are usually in the interface area with a high risk to the public, we often wait until after a rain event has occurred and for the forecast to not contain extended periods of hot and dry weather. Another factor taken into consideration is coinciding the removal of a prohibition with other Fire Centres. For example, the Kamloops and Coastal Fire Centres coordinated the removal of their prohibitions on the same date this year, which helps to avoid confusion for areas of overlapping jurisdiction such as Pemberton and Lillooet or the Manning Park area.

Thanks for reading and stay safe with your fall burning.

Alan Berry, Senior Wildfire Officer—Prevention

\*Just a note—the author of the article in the last edition on Resource Management Open Fires was Fuels Management, Specialist Pete Laing.

**Fires to Date  
Since  
April 1, 2019**

Total 157

Lightning 52

Person 105

**Number of  
fires since  
September 6,  
2019**

Total 6

Lightning 3

Person 3

**Fire Danger  
Rating today**



**Current Prohibitions  
(within BCWS  
jurisdictional area)**

There are no prohibitions in place at this time within the Coastal Fire Centre.

Go to [BCWildfire.ca](http://BCWildfire.ca) for the latest information.

# Coastal Fire Centre

# Wildfire news

## At Coastal

The Category 2 Open Fire prohibition has been lifted throughout the Coastal Fire Centre. Please check with your local jurisdiction to determine if they have a burn bylaw before igniting any debris or backyard piles. Your local government's burn bylaw takes precedence over that of the Coastal Fire Centre.

The fires below were reported to the Coastal Fire Centre between September 6th and September 20th. Due to substantial rain, cool temperatures and shorter days fire activity is low.

Incident Number	Geographic	Discovery	Status	Size (Hectares)	Cause
V31716	10km Upper Squamish	2019-09-06	Out	0.009	Human
V51724	Nelson Rd	2019-09-06	Out	0.25	Human
V11730	16km Chehalis FSR	2019-09-07	Out	5	Human
V11745	Scuzzy FSR	2019-09-08	Out	0.009	Lightning
V11752	Long Island, Harrison Lake	2019-09-09	Out	0.009	Lightning
V11762	Othello Road	2019-09-10	Out	0.009	Lightning

## Weather

**SYNOPSIS:** Patchy moisture entrained in a relatively stable northwesterly flow aloft maintains variable cloud throughout all zones today (generally more cloud than sun) while isolated showers favour higher terrain through the afternoon. Temperatures should hover near seasonal normals (a slight cooling trend off of yesterday's values). Bands of moisture associated with the warm front of the next Pacific system push onshore over the region on Friday. Slightly warmer and sunnier conditions are possible throughout some inland valleys and local subsident zones on Friday while winds remain generally light and humidities dip below 40% in only a few isolated locations. Upslope areas in a westerly flow should remain mainly cloudy. The leading edge of the associated cold front should bring rain and strengthening winds to Haida Gwaii Friday afternoon, intensifying overnight.

**OUTLOOK:** Bands of frontal moisture, oriented from SW to NE, push southeastwards over the region Friday night and Saturday, bringing thickening cloud and rain to areas north of roughly Strathcona Park to Bute Inlet by Saturday evening. Patchy moisture entrained in the southwesterly flow ahead of the approaching cold front should bring at least partly cloudy skies and a few isolated showers to the southern zones Saturday afternoon while temperatures in some areas potentially trend slightly milder than Friday (low twenties). Humidities should remain above 35%, even in the sunnier parts of the region on Saturday while pre-frontal winds come up a notch. A cold front should bring rain & wind to most areas Saturday night or Sunday with most areas picking up at least 10mm of rain – wetter upslope areas of the Island and Mainland could see storm totals in the 50mm to 75mm range while a few of the drier parts of the south (Fraser Canyon & southern/eastern sections of the South Island) could get through with only 1mm to 3.5mm. Partial clearing should be seen spreading from north to south Sunday afternoon as the remnants of the frontal system push slowly inland over the Fraser zone, exiting

east of the Coastal divide by midnight. A second, likely less intense wave of Pacific moisture could bring another round of wind & rain on Monday.

**CONFIDENCE/DISCUSSION:** Fair confidence. Tough call on the timing and duration of sunny periods today and tomorrow with implications on local high temperatures and minimum humidities (potentially a bit warmer/drier than forecast in spots). Regardless, recent widespread rains, moderate humidities, and light winds prevent ISIs from exceeding 5 in most areas today and Friday. The latest guidance has slowed Saturday/Saturday night's frontal system somewhat although the latest guidance seems to be holding relatively steady on rainfall amounts. Winds associated with this next storm could approach or exceed 50km/hr near the water, at mid & upper elevations, or in well exposed areas to the SE, S, or SW beginning late Friday in Haida Gwaii and ending Sunday afternoon in/around Manning Park. The latest guidance is trending towards slightly greater moisture levels than previously thought for Monday's weaker storm although confidence on even the larger scale features suffers beyond Sunday.

**6 TO 10 DAY:** Confidence remains low regarding a possible 2-4 day warming and drying trend towards the middle/end of next week – especially now that some models are hinting at a possible third system to arrive Thursday-ish. Temperatures in a warmer and drier scenario (which is looking a little less likely than previously thought) would come up into the low twenties but a continued inflow/onshore pattern downplays the potential for humidities to dip much below 38%. Thursday FWI's in a warm/dry pattern would depend partially on this weekend's and Monday's rains but a ball-park FFMC value for a drier site across the south would be 80 to 83 (DMC < 20), assuming a small amount of rain Monday (and none the remainder of the week).