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Waiting for the next activity to begin...

1

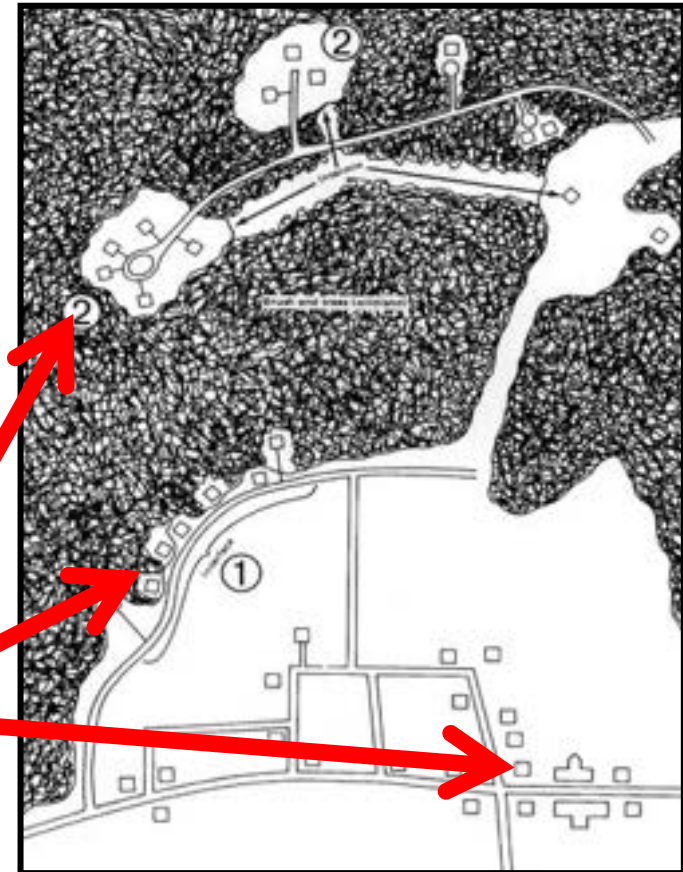
What does FireSmart mean to you?

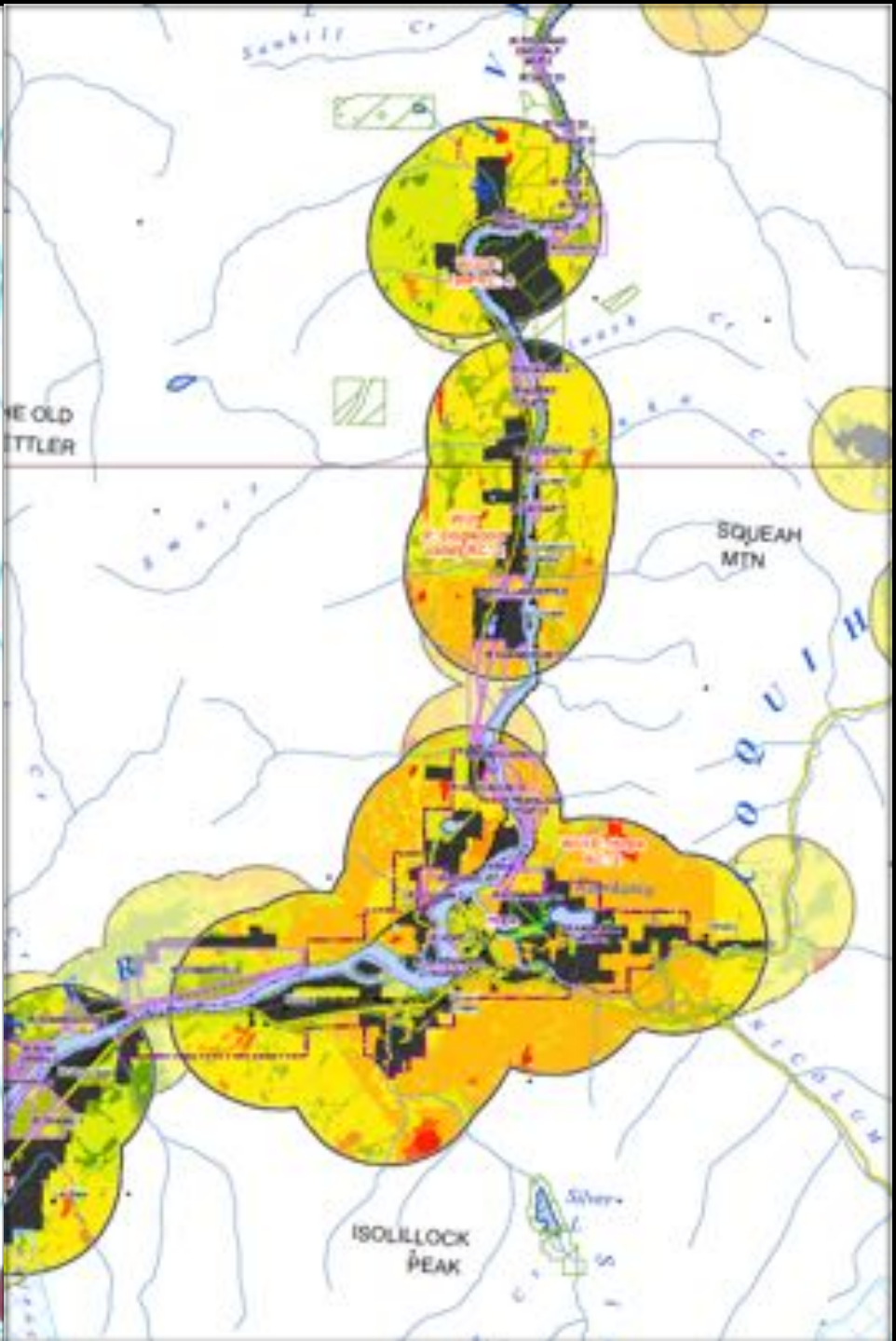
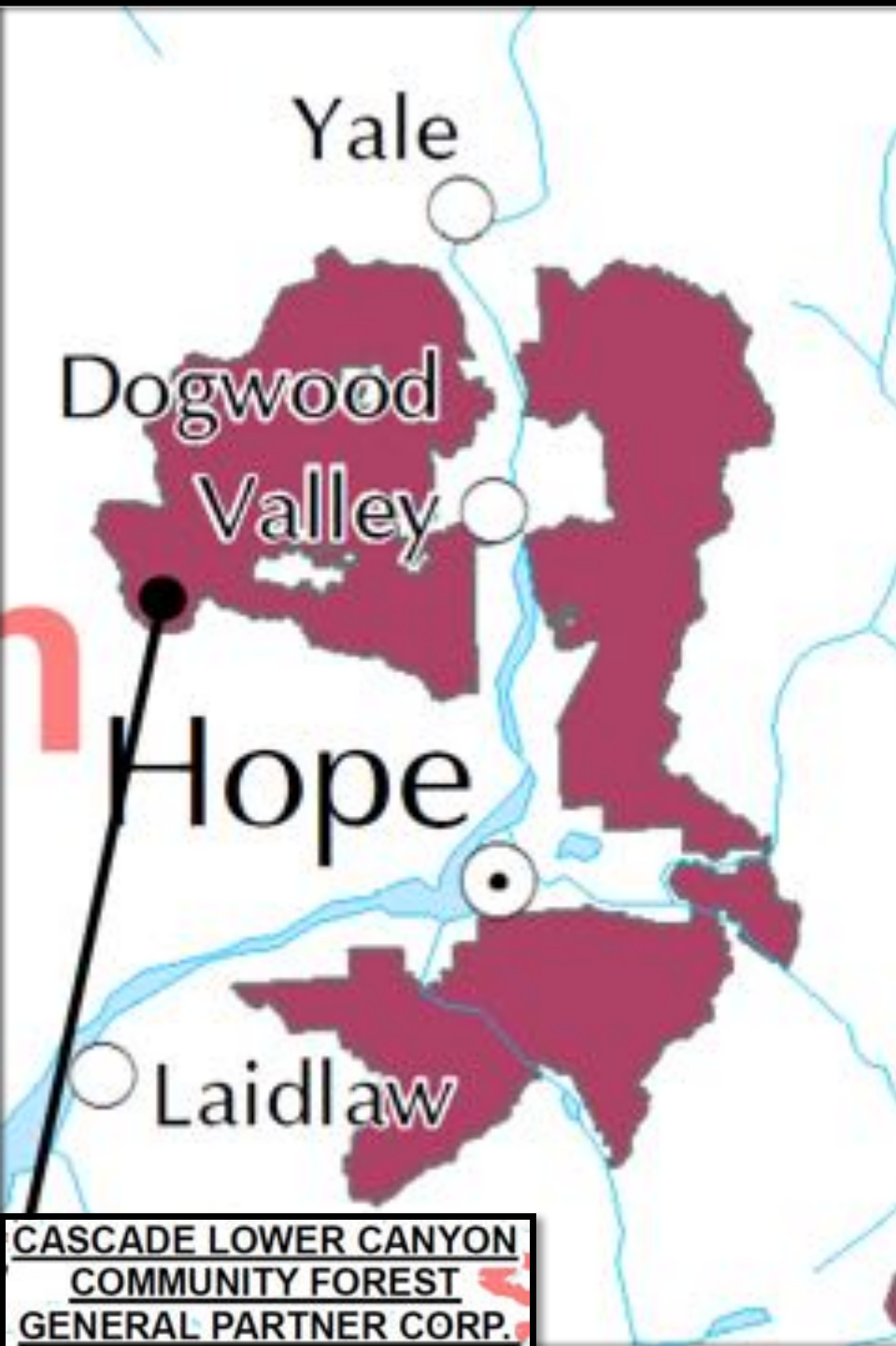
Wildland Urban Interface

What is the WUI?

- WUI refers to the “wildland urban interface”.
- It is the zone of transition between wildland forest and human development.
- The lands and communities next to and surrounded by wildlands are at risk of wildfires.

**Wildland Urban
Interface**







B.C. is experiencing a serious and sustained increase in extreme wildfire behaviour in the **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**.

Human impact

(statistics courtesy of Emergency Management BC)

	2017	2018
EVACUATION ORDERS	120	66
EVACUATION ALERTS	166	124
PROPERTIES ON ORDER	18,737	2,211
PROPERTIES ON ALERT	10,656	17,939
EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICE RECIPIENTS	NOT AVAILABLE	5,482
TOTAL DAYS ON PROVINCIAL STATE OF EMERGENCY	71 (July 7 to Sept 15)	24 (Aug 15 to Sept 7)



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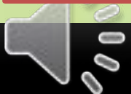
2

Recent wildfires in your community forest?



How many disciplines support the FireSmart program?

3



Music: <https://www.bensound.com>

Introducing...

The Seven Disciplines



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FireSmart

[Disciplines Video](#)

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How many are
you engaged in?

Interagency cooperation

Education

Cross-training

Vegetation management

Development considerations

Legislation and planning

Emergency planning





Legislation & Planning

Effective planning and review of legislation can help communities anticipate and prevent the dangers of wildfire in the interface. Land use planning is one way we can minimize land use conflicts and incompatibilities.

Fire protection organizations do their best with the resources that they have available, but it is not realistic to assume all properties can be defended against all wildfires. That is where legislation and planning come in.

Planners must balance the interest of authorities and residents who share the responsibility for safety in the wildland urban interface. Minimizing the risk of wildfire disasters is a land use planning issue wherever the WUI is involved.

Fire officials, planners, community leaders, neighbours, First Nations and local government all need to work together to ensure that legislation considers the threat of wildfire and increasing the communities' resiliency.



Education

The first step to becoming FireSmart is educate yourself, your family and your community on what it means to have a FireSmart BC. Read up on the disciplines, find out what you need to know to increase the wildfire resiliency of your property and neighbourhood.

In the last two fire seasons alone, over 600 homes were destroyed by wildfire in the province of BC. There will undeniably be an increasing number of home losses when we consider present trends in climate change, expansion of the wildland urban interface and changes in forest fuels.

Over time, FireSmart principles have shown that they are effective at reducing the risk related to losses in the most extreme wildfire conditions. Economically, FireSmart is the most cost-effective way to mitigate the loss of homes. At this point in B.C., FireSmart is not utilized by majority of homeowners that live in fire prone areas.



Development Considerations

FireSmart principles need to be reflected in the design, construction and maintenance of communities in the interface.

Wildfire is an essential and integral component of the wildland ecosystems we have in BC. Wildfire removes forest litter build up and helps eliminate downed woody debris like dead limbs and fallen trees. Development means changes to the wildland fire regime. Suppressing and controlling wildfires means forests grow older and the amount of fuel that is available for ignition increases. This natural fuel build up is supplemented by houses and businesses that are built in the wildland urban interface and offer new sources of fuel for wildfire.



Vegetation Management

Vegetation management addresses the threat of wildfire by reducing the amount of fuel that can ignite and carry a fire through the landscape and into communities.

In BC vegetation management also includes fuel management. Vegetation management being the work that is done in and around communities and fuel management being the work that is done on the wider landscape level. Vegetation management is reducing fuels that support fast spreading and high intensity wildfires by removal, reduction and conversion of fuels.

Each community in the interface and landscape area requires different levels of treatment based on threat, biogeoclimatic factors, efficiencies and other factors like watersheds, wildlife habitat etc. The level of treatment discussion needs to start within each community and extend to a discussion on how to accomplish hazard reduction.



Emergency Planning

Taking advantage of FireSmart in order to be prepared for a wildfire emergency is the responsibility of everyone from a homeowner to community leader to members of fire agencies.

Emergency planning means taking into account all the complexities of a multiagency response. There are characteristics in your specific interface and strategies of your response that are unique to your community, addressing those can help you prepare your area for wildfire. Evacuations as well as response and recovery after a wildfire event should all be part of your emergency planning process.



Cross-training

Cross training is important both for the safety of wildfire and wildland firefighters and for the effectiveness of wildfire suppression.

Wildfires that occur in the wildland urban interface involve both wildfire fighters and structural firefighters as well as their equipment, communications and abilities. Interface wildfires also involve both structures and wildland vegetation. The fire can either start as a structural fire that ignites surrounding brush and spreads to the forest, or as a wildfire that ignites buildings through ember transfer or flames from a wildfire.

In many cases, firefighters are either trained to suppress wildfires or structural fires and not both. Cross training focuses on sharing the necessary knowledge needed to address both types of fires. Training can focus on equipment, practical skills, fire behaviour, communications and various other fire fighting tactics. FireSmart cross training enables specialized firefighters from one discipline to gain the basic skills of the other discipline



Interagency Cooperation

FireSmart is a shared responsibility, which means it relies on strong and lasting partnerships

Interagency cooperation starts with getting involved in multi-agency activities that promote FireSmart in your community or region. Maybe you can sit on the Regional FireSmart Committee, or help form one if there isn't one in your region yet. Maybe you can get involved with the local fire departments and wildfire service to review new developments in the area for their wildfire resiliency. Maybe you can ask your local politician if there are mutual-aid fire control agreements in place for your area.

What is a WUI fire?

**Where the fuel being
consumed by a wildfire...**

**...changes from wildland
fuel to urban fuel.**



**This can happen in
reverse order as well!**

Wildfire structure survival statistics

- flammable roof, no treatment and no defensive action - **4% survival**
- flammable roof - **20% survival**
- non-flammable roof - **70% survival**
- 10 metres (Zone 1) or more of vegetation is treated - **90% survival**



50% of structures lost to wildfire are a result of ember transfer.



Surface fuels are not only a bed of tinder to catch embers, but also the source of embers themselves.

Community recognition program

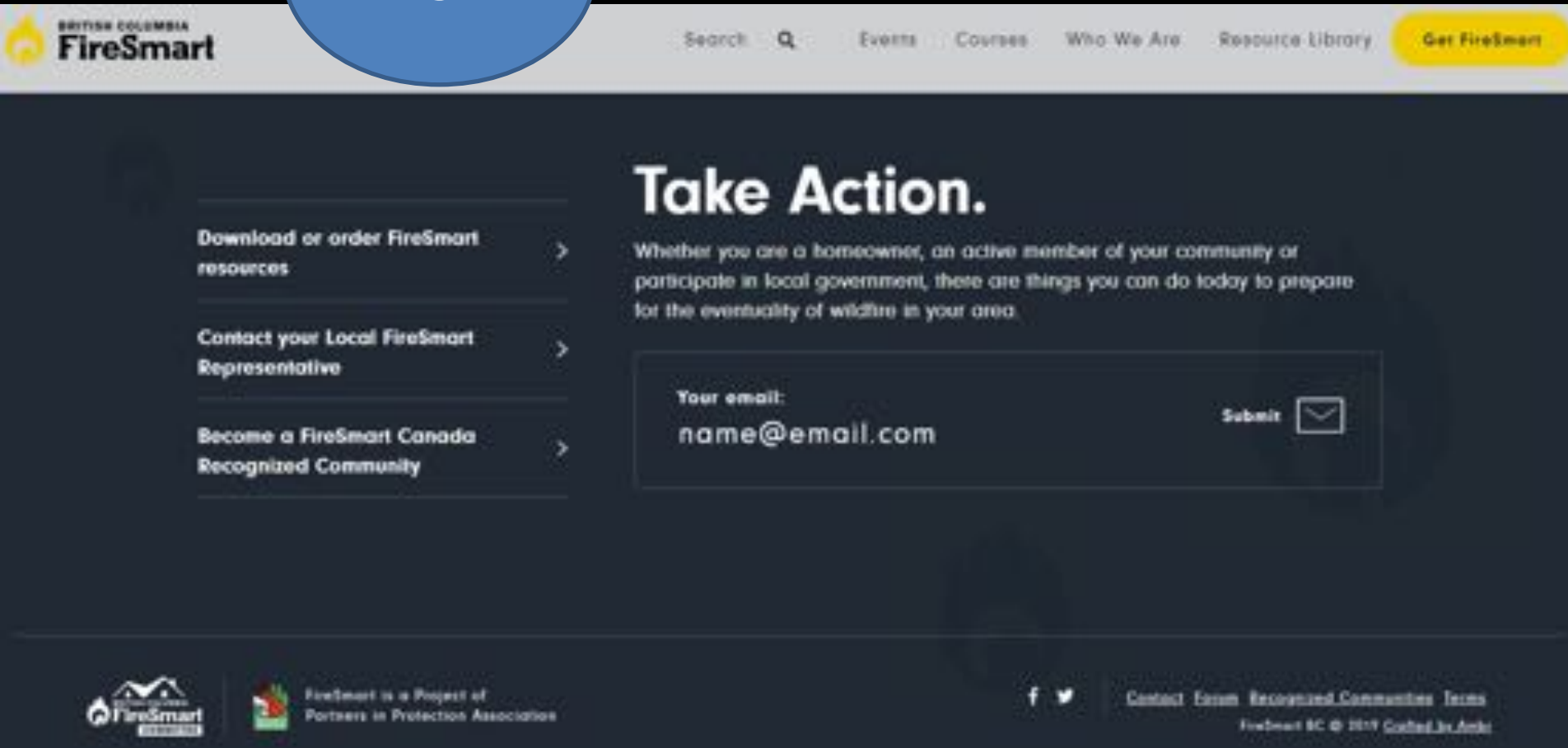


- Contact a Local FireSmart Representative (LFR).
- Create community representation.
- Local FireSmart Representative completes assessment and evaluation.
- Create a FireSmart Community Plan.
- Implement mitigation recommendations/solutions.
- Apply for recognition.
- Renew your recognition status and work to increase the number of FireSmart homes in your neighbourhood.



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Where can you learn more?




The screenshot shows the FireSmart BC website. At the top left is the FireSmart logo with the text 'BRITISH COLUMBIA FireSmart'. To the right is a navigation bar with links for 'Search', 'Events', 'Courses', 'Who We Are', and 'Resource Library', followed by a yellow 'Get FireSmart' button. The main content area has a dark background. On the left, there are three links: 'Download or order FireSmart resources', 'Contact your Local FireSmart Representative', and 'Become a FireSmart Canada Recognized Community'. In the center, the heading 'Take Action.' is followed by a paragraph: 'Whether you are a homeowner, an active member of your community or participate in local government, there are things you can do today to prepare for the eventuality of wildfire in your area.' Below this is a form with the label 'Your email:', the text 'name@email.com', a 'Submit' button, and an envelope icon. At the bottom, there are logos for 'FireSmart BC' and 'Partners in Protection Association', social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, and a footer with links for 'Contact', 'Form', 'Recognized Communities', and 'Terms'. The footer also includes the text 'FireSmart BC © 2019 Created by Andri'.


BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmart

Search Events Courses Who We Are Resource Library [Get FireSmart](#)

Take Action.

Whether you are a homeowner, an active member of your community or participate in local government, there are things you can do today to prepare for the eventuality of wildfire in your area.

Your email:
name@email.com [Submit](#) 

 FireSmart is a Project of
Partners in Protection Association

[Contact](#) [Form](#) [Recognized Communities](#) [Terms](#)
FireSmart BC © 2019 Created by Andri

www.FireSmartBC.ca

The BC FireSmart Committee



Membership:

- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, as represented by the BC Wildfire Service
- Office of the Fire Commissioner
- Union of B.C. Municipalities
- Fire Chiefs' Association of B.C.
- Emergency Management BC
- Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.
- First Nations' Emergency Services Society of B.C.
- FireSmart Canada



Committee purpose



The B.C. FireSmart Committee works to collaboratively maintain and improve the delivery of the BC FireSmart program by ensuring alignment with the seven FireSmart disciplines, to better support wildfire preparedness, prevention and mitigation in B.C.

In meeting their purpose, they commit to aligning with FireSmart Canada, developing an annual work plan and budget, and providing stakeholders and interested parties with one governing agency for FireSmart in B.C.



How can the FireSmart Committee Help you as a stakeholder?

FireSmart resources



- Brochures, guides
- latest articles and research
- links to relevant websites
- posters and graphics
- Videos and public presentations
- **online resource ordering form**

A photograph of a forest floor with several large tree trunks in the foreground and background. The ground is covered in brown pine needles and some fallen branches.

Resource Library

Wildfire Risk Reduction Resources



BC Wildfire Prevention

- [WUI Risk Class Maps](#)
- [Fuel Hazard Assessment Tools and Guides](#)
- [Planning and Prescription Guidance and Software](#)
- [Info for Industry and Commercial Operators](#)

Other Sources

- [SiFCo Video Gallery](#)
- [FESBC Applying For Funding](#)
- [Community Resiliency Investment Program](#)
- [FireSmartBC.ca](#)



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Questions

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