



FireSmart

Canada



Intelli-feu

Canada

Wildfire In Your Woodland

June 5, 2024



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Introductions

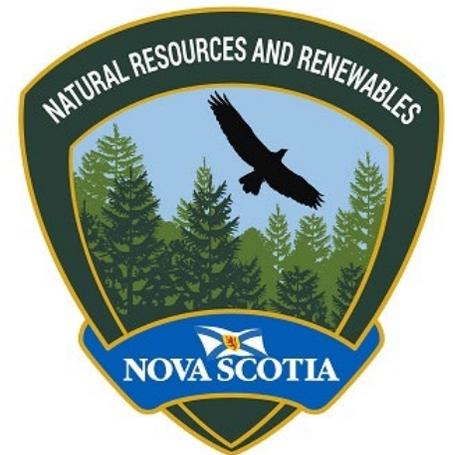
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What is FireSmart?

FireSmart™ Canada develops practical, effective, and science-based programs that provide residents with tools to be better prepared when wildland fire occurs.

FireSmart empowers residents to take small steps around their home and property that reduce the negative impacts of wildland fire.



7 Disciplines of FireSmart Canada

FireSmart helps reduce wildfire risk to homes, neighborhoods, critical infrastructure, and vital natural resources.

This is a shared responsibility between us all. Individuals, communities, governments, and private sector organizations all have a part to play.

Education



Planning



Cross
Training



Vegetation
Management



Legislation



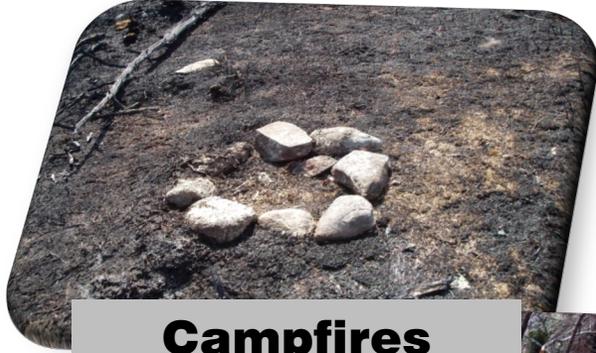
Development



Interagency
Cooperation



Wildfire...What can happen?



**Campfires
escape**



**Homes can be
Destroyed**



**Valuable Timber
resources
destroyed**



Equipment Lost



**Wildlife Habitat
destroyed**



**Lives can be lost
suppressing fires**

Wildland Urban Interface Disasters in Canada



Kelowna, BC
(2003)

240 homes lost

Loss of \$150 million



Slave Lake, AB
(2011)

354 homes lost

Loss of \$800 million



Fort McMurray, AB
(2016)

2,400 structures lost

Loss of \$3.6 billion



Tantallon, NS
(2023)

151 homes lost

Loss of \$165 million

Why Protect Your Woodland from Wildfire?

A wildfire can quickly affect your woodland in many ways. Preventing wildfire is the easiest way to manage wildfire on your woodland. Preventing wildfires is everyone's responsibility.

The ways we behave and interact with the forest will determine whether woodland fires result.

Values

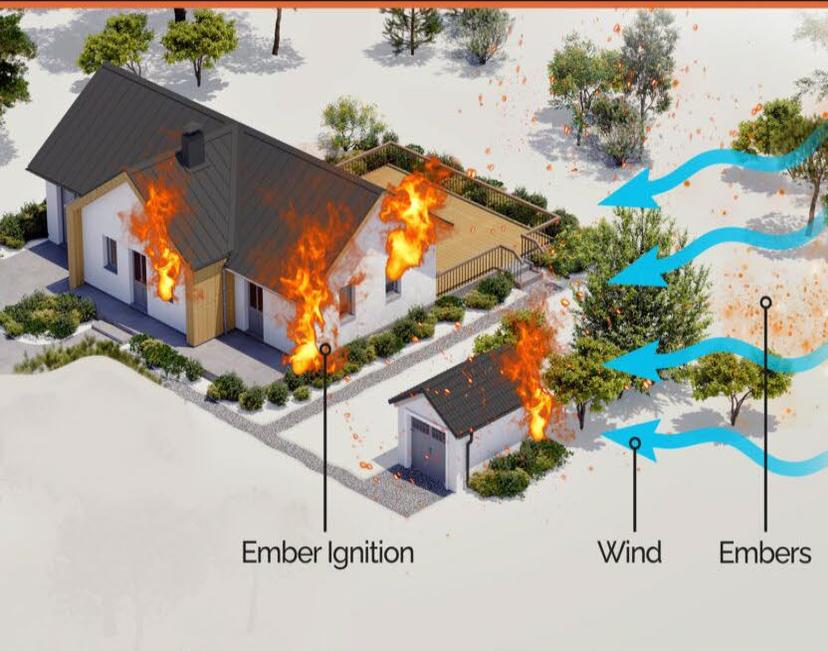
- Timber Resources
- Wildlife
- Recreational use



Three Ways Wildfire Threatens a House and Woodlot

Embers

90% of Structure Ignition



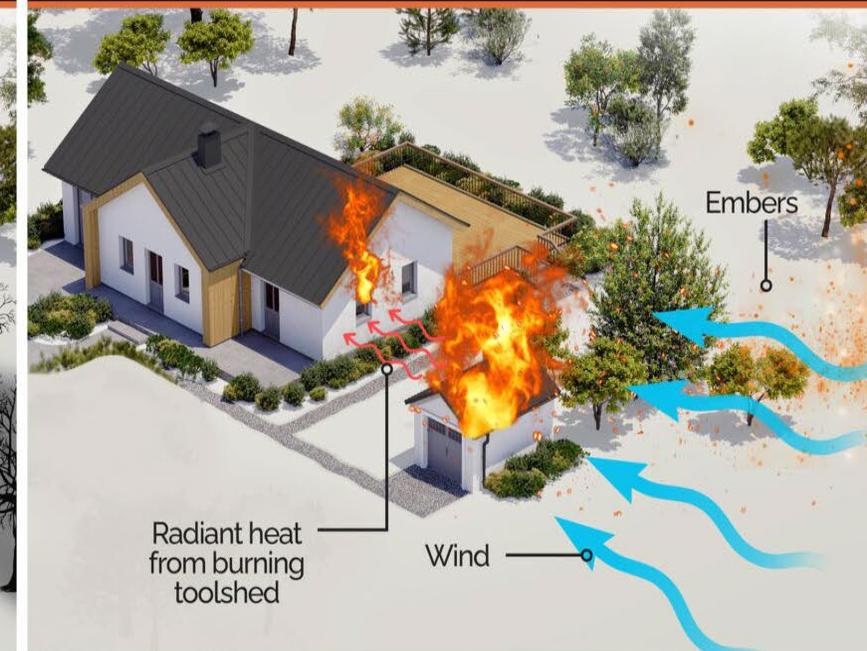
Direct Flame Contact

Continuity of Fuels



Radiant Heat

Density of Structures

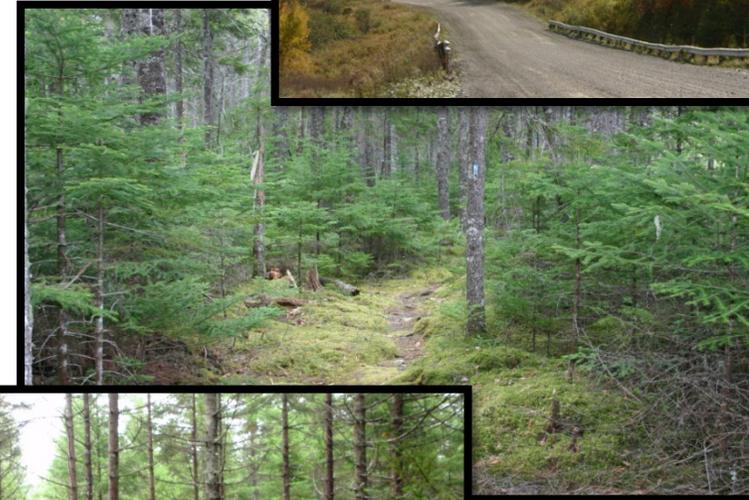


Managing your Woodland

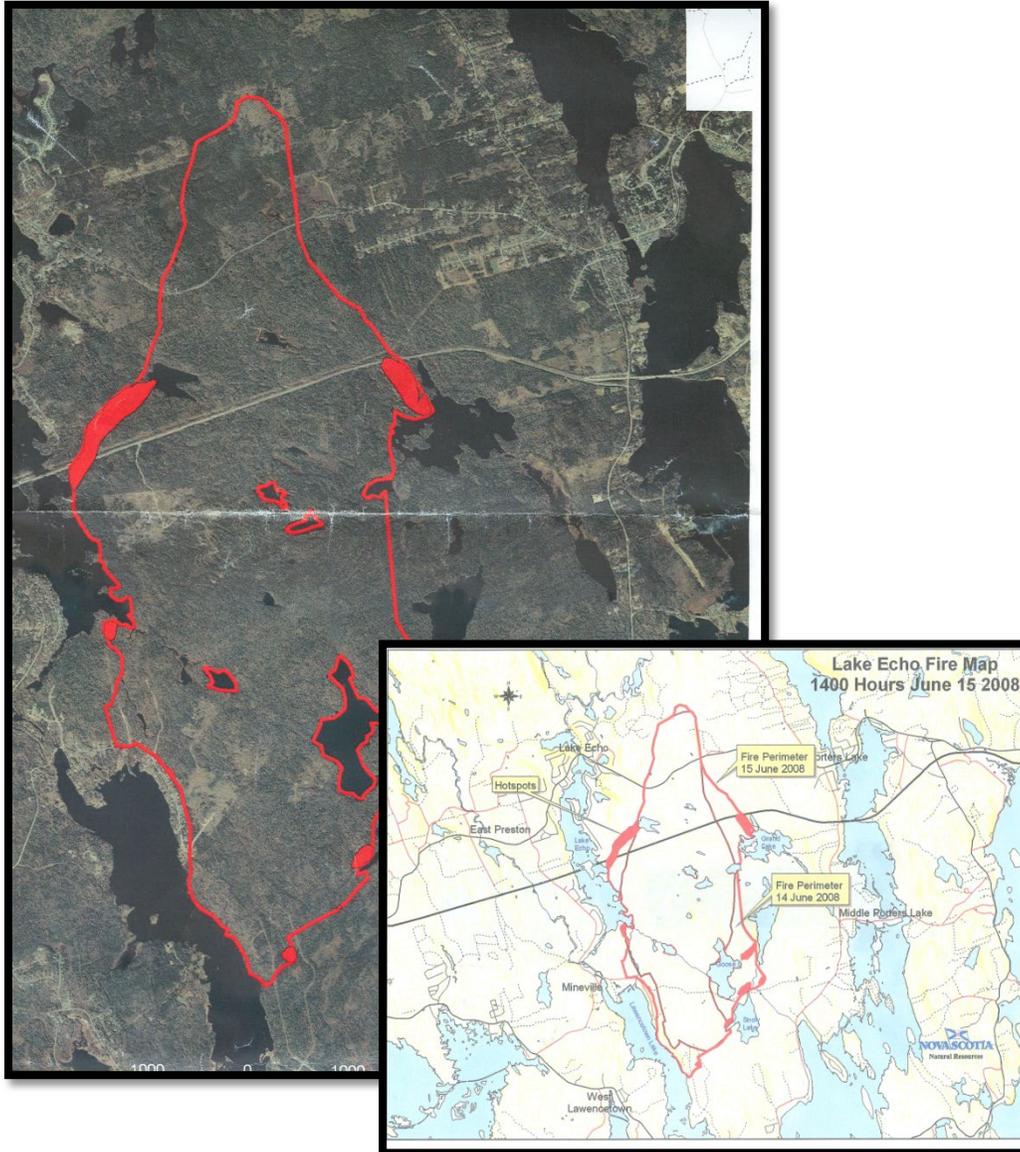
Fire
Friendly

- Hardwood stands (Are the most fire friendly!)
- Mixed wood stands (<50% softwood)
- Blueberries, Sugar woods
- Shelter woods
- Selection Management
- Softwood stands
- Christmas trees
- New Pre-Commercial & Commercial Thinning

Not so Fire
Friendly



Management Plans



- Well documented roads, waterways
- Stand types, size
- Maps for firefighters
- Road signs/civics
- Roads wide enough and contain turn arounds for trucks
- Bridge weight/use restrictions

In Your woodlot...

Create Fire Breaks

- Can be a road
- Can be a change in fuel
- Can be a change in management type

Have man made or natural ponds and water available



Around your home and woodlot



Remove Fuels

- Remove dead fuels
- Remove diseased & insect ridden fuels
- Remove Ladder fuels
- Remove lower limbs
- Thin Fuels
- Plant fire resistive species both in landscaping and woodlot

Three Important Actions to Help Your Home Survive a Wildfire

- Create your defensible space
- Use fire resistant roofing materials
- Maintain your defensible space

*Action 1: Create
Your Defensible Space*



Home Ignition Zone

Unmitigated Property

Mitigated Property



How Effective is Creating Defensible Space?



Defensible Space- Nova Scotia May 2023



An aerial photograph of a dense forest. The majority of the trees are green, but there are numerous dead, grey, skeletal trees scattered throughout the canopy. The text "Is there dead vegetation?" is overlaid in the center in a white, italicized font. A small yellow speech bubble icon is in the top left corner.

Is there dead vegetation?

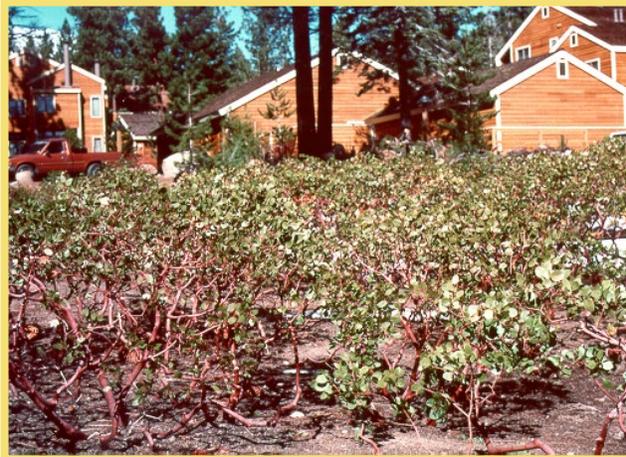
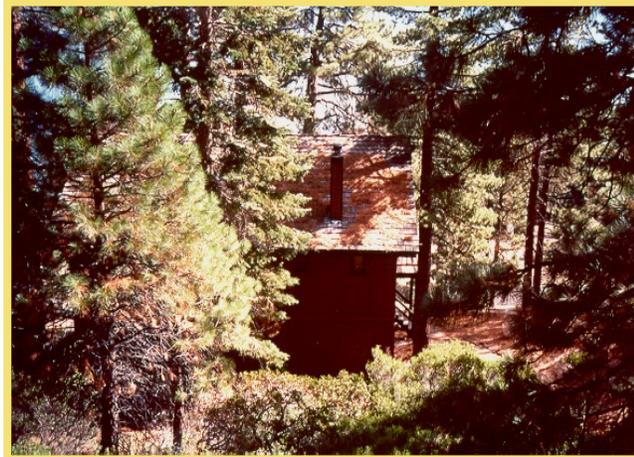
Dead vegetation may include...

1. Dead Trees

2. Needles and Leaves

3. Dead Branches on Shrubs

4. Downed Trees and Needles



Remove dead vegetation & dense vegetation

Lawns Can Be Effective in Firescaping

Not suggesting this...



...More like this!



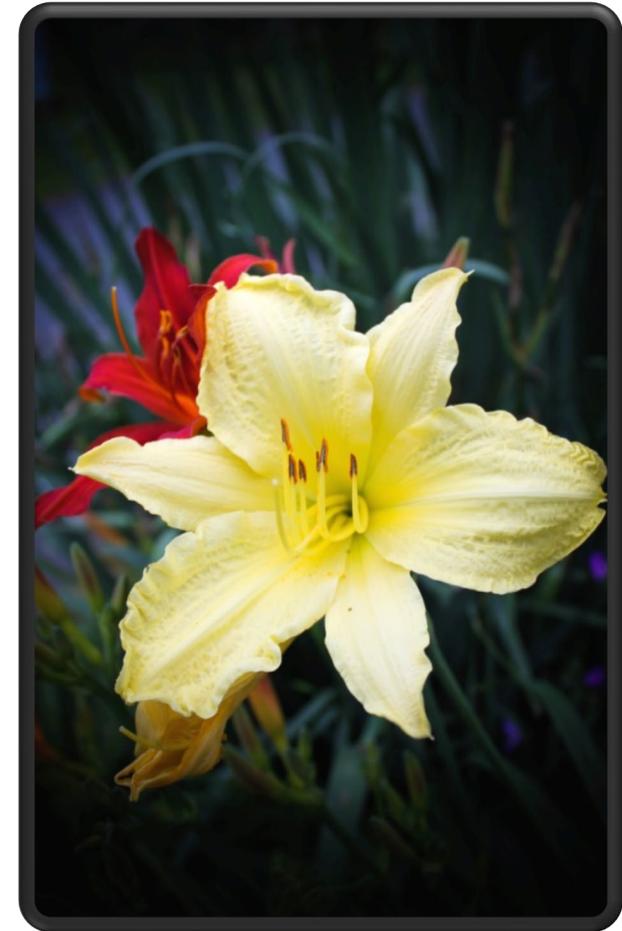
Fire Resistive Species



<https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/resources-library/c/manuals>

Characteristics of Fire Resistant Plants

- Little accumulation of dead vegetation
- Open, loose branching
- Non-resinous, oily or waxy
- Low volume of total vegetation
- High moisture content
- Slow growing
- Don't be afraid to use native species 😊



*There is no such thing as a plant that will
not burn,*



Porters Lake Fire
Fern re-growth
after three
days

...but some plants are more fire resistant than others.

And Don't Forget to Move Your Firewood Pile!

- Well spaced, maintained landscapes
- Use non-flammable mulches (rock, gravel)
- Pile brush away from buildings
- Flammable liquids stored away from home





Action 2: Use Fire Resistant Roofing Materials

Your Roof is The Most Vulnerable Part of Your Home

Class A: Clay Tile, Concrete, Slate, Metal Roofing (with certain coatings)

Class B: Pressure-treated Wood Shingles or Shakes, Certain Asphalt Shingles, Metal Roofing (standard)

Class C: Untreated Wood Shingles or Shakes, Certain Synthetic Roofing Materials, Some Asphalt Shingles

Unrated: Thatched Roofing, Green Roofs

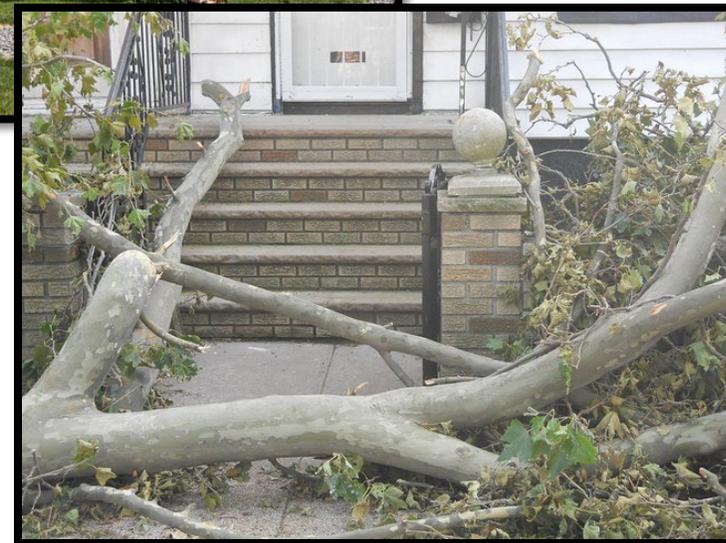


A man wearing a dark cap, glasses, a dark jacket with a yellow collar, and khaki pants is kneeling on a roof. He is holding a large clump of brown leaves and debris in his hands, appearing to be cleaning a gutter. The background shows a clear blue sky and green trees. The text "Action 3: Regular Maintenance" is overlaid in white, italicized font across the center of the image.

Action 3: Regular Maintenance

Regular Maintenance

- Clean gutters regularly
- Keep grasses mowed, trees pruned, raked and properly disposed
- Keep yards free of “hazards”
- Maintain 30m buffer
- Don't throw ashes in tall grass
- Keep Chimney's Clean/screened



Maintenance



- Keep harvesters and ATV's clean of clogged vegetation around exhausts/tracks
- Spread tree tops/limbs when harvesting trees
- Don't operate machines on dry/fire ban days

Maintenance

- Make sure equipment has working spark arrestors and extinguishers
- Have shovels, water natural or otherwise, backtanks
- Reduce roadside fuels in case careless travellers stop by.



Do your part to prevent...

Don't burn grass it has no benefit to soils...

Burn brush wisely:

- Burn in winter
- Compost
- Recycle for wildlife
- Keep brush/grass clear of barrels/piles
- Burn on calm days not windy
- Always check burn restrictions in your area before lighting any fire

Winter Brush Burning

Did You Know?
Wildfires are four times more likely to occur between March and May than any other time of year

Winter brush burning is permitted after fire season but is recommended when there is snow cover, please contact your local Natural Resources office for further advice.

Help Prevent Forest Fires

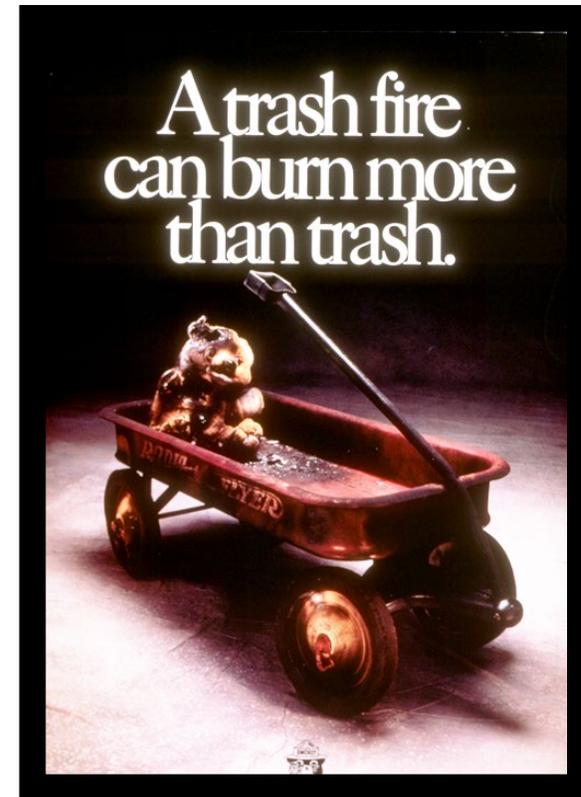
NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Grass Burning... dispelling common myths

Myths	Facts
Is safe as long as there is snow on the ground	Is Extremely Dangerous
Is an easy way to get rid of grass	Results in the loss of soil nutrients
improves new grass	reduces grass yield
Promotes greener grass afterwards	does not affect the color of grass
Will not damage native shrubs and trees	damages native species and promotes alien species
Is no threat to wildlife	Destroys wildlife habitat
Supports a balanced ecosystem	May allow certain species to dominate
Is effective weed control	Creates ideal conditions for weeds

Wildfire Prevention

- Know local bylaws on burning
- Check fire-restrictions in your area before lighting any fire
- Teach children about wildfire safety
- Post emergency numbers & Civics
- Escape plan for property
- Talk to your neighbours



72 hour Preparedness

- Do you have a plan? A plan for everyone in your household?
- Do you have enough supplies to survive 72 hrs?
- Do you have a plan for your livestock/pets?
- Keep track of weather/hazards



Are you Insured for a Wildfire?

Does your insurance policy provide coverage for additional living costs in the event that you are forced to leave because of wildfire?

Does your insurance policy Provide coverage against wildfire losses?

Does your insurance policy provide coverage for the farm or forest resources potentially at risk?

Open Discussion & Questions?

