



Hazard Resilience Strategies

Fires

Brush, Bush and Grass Fires
Forest Fires or Wildfires
Peat Bog Fires
Urban/Structural Fires
Wildland/Urban Interface Fires

Brush, Bush and Grass Fires ^{1 2 3}

- Before issuing a permit for any prescribed/controlled burns, ensure there are adequate plans to avoid the fires becoming uncontrolled including scenarios of high winds.
- Ensure community-based brush, bush and grass fire exercises have taken place in the community-at-large (e.g., table-top or full-scale exercises)
- Ensure most residences and all businesses have smoke detectors and fire extinguishers on each floor of the building
- Ensure most residents and businesses have cleared flammable vegetation (e.g., dried grass) within 10 metres of structures and cleared all combustible material (e.g., firewood, debris under porches) within 10 metres.
- Ensure most residents have burn barrels located well away from their homes and have proper ventilation and screens.
- Ensure most residents have covered building vents and chimneys with wire mesh to prevent flying embers from entering or leaving the home
- Ensure most residents have home fire evacuation plans and have tested them.
- Ensure most residents have homes that do not have single-paned glass and have metal, clay tile and asphalt shingles with outer surfaces of stucco, metal, brick and concrete which offer superior fire resistance to wildfire or logs and heavy timbers (wood and vinyl siding offer very little protection).
- Ensure most residents have shovels, rakes, axes, garden hoses, sprinklers and roof ladders to assist in suppressing brush, bush and grass fires.
- Ensure residents have been educated regarding FireSmart principles and have completed the British Columbia Ministry of Forests' *Homeowners FireSmart Risk Assessment* (2003).

- Ensure community and Parks Boards have policies in place to ban outdoor fires and to advise residents and visitors about these fire bans.
- Ensure the community has cleared and pruned flammable brush, bushes and grasses in an extensive zone around the community core.
- Ensure the community has developed designated evacuation routes.
- Ensure the community has signage posted (which include the appropriate phone number) encouraging residents and visitors to report any fires which are observed no matter where they are spotted.
- Ensure the community requires new construction to be built using fire-resistant building materials and to have sprinkler systems.
- Ensure the Fire Department checks frequently with fire risk monitoring and weather forecasting agencies such as the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System, provincial/territorial fire agencies and Environment Canada.
- Ensure the Fire Department conducts programs (e.g., such as *Learn Not To Burn*) within schools and with youth to prevent arson/fire setting.
- Ensure there is a warning system in place to notify community residents and businesses of a potential brush, bush or grass fire and how to prepare for it.
- Ensure there is a warning system in place to notify police, fire and ambulance personnel of a potential brush, bush or grass fire

Forest fires or wildfires ^{4 5 6}

- Before issuing a permit for any prescribed/controlled burns (e.g., slash burning), ensure there are adequate plans to avoid the fires being uncontrolled including scenarios of high winds.
- Ensure forest fighting organizations have held forest fire exercises with scenarios including forests near the community (e.g., table-top or full-scale exercises)
- Ensure forestry practices around the community are sustainable and ecologically sound.
- Ensure forestry practices reduce the amount of forest fuel build-up.
- Ensure the community and Parks Boards have policies in place to ban outdoor fires and to advise residents and visitors about these fire bans.
- Ensure the Fire Department conducts programs (e.g., such as *Learn Not To Burn*) within schools and with youth to prevent arson/fire setting.
- Ensure the forested area around the community is covered by a real-time Lightning Detection Network (providing immediate feedback on local lightning) and the Fire Department has access to the information to plan for potential forest fires.
- Ensure there is a warning system in place to notify community residents and businesses of a potential forest fire and how to prepare for it.
- Ensure there is a warning system in place to notify police, fire and ambulance personnel of a potential forest fire

Peat Bog Fires ^{7 8 9}

- Before issuing a permit for any planned controlled burns, ensure residents demonstrate adequate plans to avoid the fires being uncontrolled, including scenarios of high winds.
- Ensure community-based peat bog fire exercises have taken place in the community-at-large (e.g., table-top or full-scale exercises)
- Ensure the community has banned all fires in and around peat bogs.
- Ensure the community protects all peat bogs and does not allow any water to be drained from the peat bog.
- Ensure the Fire Department conducts programs (e.g., such as *Learn Not To Burn*) within schools and with youth to prevent arson/fire setting.
- Ensure there is a warning system in place to notify community residents and businesses of a potential peat bog fire and how to prepare for it.
- Ensure there is a warning system in place to notify police, fire and ambulance personnel of a potential peat bog fire

Urban Structural Fires ^{10 11 12 13}

- Ensure community-based urban structural fire exercises have taken place in the community-at-large (e.g., table-top or full-scale exercises)
- Ensure most residences and all businesses have smoke detectors and fire extinguishers on each floor of the building
- Ensure most residents and businesses have cleared and pruned flammable trees and vegetation (e.g., dried grass) within 10 metres of structures and cleared all combustible material (e.g., firewood, debris under porches) within 10 metres.
- Ensure most residents have burn barrels located well away from their homes and have proper ventilation and screens.
- Ensure most residents have covered building vents and chimneys with wire mesh to prevent flying embers from entering or leaving the building
- Ensure most residents have home-based fire evacuation plans and have tested them.
- Ensure most residents have homes that do not have single-paned glass and have metal, clay tile and asphalt shingles with outer surfaces of stucco, metal, brick and concrete which offer superior fire resistance to wildfire or logs and heavy timbers (wood and vinyl siding offer very little protection).
- Ensure most residents have spaced trees so that the crowns of individual trees are 3 to 6 metres apart and have removed or reduced the number of evergreen trees within 10 to 30 metres from their homes.
- Ensure residents have been educated regarding FireSmart principles and have completed the British Columbia Ministry of Forest's *Homeowners FireSmart Risk Assessment* (2003) and are aware of their individual risk.
- Ensure the community has plans in place to provide fire hydrants or access to large quantities of water in the community business area/community core.
- Ensure the community has a warning plan to advise residents and visitors about fire bans.

- Ensure the community has policies in place limiting the number of levels in the construction of multi-level wood frame buildings in order to offset fire hazards.
- Ensure the community has policies in place for historical, wood frame buildings to install fire sprinkler systems.
- Ensure the community has signage postage (which include the appropriate phone number) encouraging residents and visitors to report any fires which are observed no matter where they are spotted.
- Ensure the community requires new construction have fire sprinkler systems and to be built using fire-resistant building materials.
- Ensure the Fire Department conducts programs (e.g., such as *Learn Not To Burn*) within schools and with youth to prevent arson/fire setting.
- Ensure there is a warning system in place to notify community residents and businesses of an urban fire and how to prepare for it.
- Ensure there is a warning system in place to notify police, fire and ambulance personnel of an urban fire

Wildland/URban Interface fires ^{14 15 16 17}

- Before issuing a permit for any prescribed/controlled burns, ensure there are adequate plans to avoid the fires being uncontrolled, including scenarios of high winds.
- Ensure community-based wildland/urban interface fire exercises have taken place in the community-at-large (e.g., table-top or full-scale exercises)
- Ensure forestry practices around the community are sustainable and ecologically sound.
- Ensure most homes do not have single-paned glass and have metal, clay tile and asphalt shingles.
- Ensure most residences and all businesses have smoke detectors and fire extinguishers on each floor of the building
- Ensure most residents and businesses are able to access water to sprinkle/hose down roofs and areas surrounding their home.
- Ensure most residents and businesses have cleared and pruned flammable trees and vegetation (e.g., dried grass) within 10 metres of structures and cleared all combustible material (e.g., firewood, debris under porches) within 10 metres.
- Ensure most residents have burn barrels located well away from their homes and have proper ventilation and screens.
- Ensure most residents have covered building vents and chimneys with wire mesh to prevent flying embers from entering or leaving the building
- Ensure most residents have home-based fire evacuation plans and have tested them.
- Ensure most residents have homes with outer surfaces of stucco, metal, brick and concrete which offer superior fire resistance to wildfire or logs and heavy timbers (wood and vinyl siding offer very little protection).
- Ensure most residents have shovels, rakes, axes, garden hoses, sprinklers and roof ladders to assist in suppressing wildfires
- Ensure most residents have spaced trees so that the crowns of individual trees are 3 to 6 metres apart and have removed or reduced the number of evergreen trees within 10 to 30 metres from their homes.

- Ensure residents have been educated regarding FireSmart principles and have completed the British Columbia Ministry of Forests' *Homeowners FireSmart Risk Assessment* (2003) and are aware of their individual risk.
- Ensure the community and Parks Boards have policies in place to ban outdoor fires and to advise residents and visitors about these fire bans.
- Ensure the community has cleared and pruned flammable brush, bushes and grasses in an extensive zone around the central community core.
- Ensure the community has developed designated evacuation routes.
- Ensure the community has signage postage (which include the appropriate phone number) encouraging residents and visitors to report any fires which are observed no matter where they are spotted.
- Ensure the community requires new construction to have sprinkler systems and to be built using fire-resistant building materials.
- Ensure the Fire Department checks frequently with fire risk monitoring and weather forecasting agencies such as the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System, and Environment Canada.
- Ensure the Fire Department conducts programs (e.g., such as *Learn Not To Burn*) within schools and with youth to prevent arson/fire setting.
- Ensure there is a warning system in place to notify community residents and businesses of a potential wildland/urban interface fire and how to prepare for it.
- Ensure there is a warning system in place to notify police, fire and ambulance personnel of an wildland/urban interface fire

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