



PREP DAY 2021!

A toolkit for neighbourhoods





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GET STARTED

PICK A PROJECT

- ✓ Gather neighbours, friends and family members who want to participate in a project. Check with community groups for ideas and participants.
- ✓ Review project suggestions (below) and select one that fits your community's needs. Assign tasks to team members to help with logistics.
- ✓ Pick a time and location for your event. Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is May 1 but events can be held through Oct. 31.





INFORMATION

GATHER YOUR NEIGHBOURS!

Everyone can participate in projects that reduce wildfire risk, increase preparedness and help communities become FireSmart. Projects range from hour-long work bees to full-day activities, or even weekend undertakings!

With the youngest participants in mind, FireSmart Canada has compiled project ideas that can be accomplished at little to no cost, using readily available household tools.

Families can invest time completing a project together, organizing a group to help neighbours, or rallying the community!

Involve neighbours.

Make a plan.

Promote your project.

Wildfire preparedness also means making others aware. Set-up a table at a community centre, hardware or grocery store, or sports event, and distribute free wildfire education information.

Enlist the help of friends, relatives or a youth organization! Challenge a club, athletic team or faith-based group to develop a project, and see who can make the largest impact.

Remember to always ask for and receive permission from a land/homeowner before doing work on property that is not your own.

Before getting started, make sure everyone has reviewed the safety gear and safety tips on pages 7 and 8.



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.



PROMOTE!

GET THE WORD OUT

- Once you've chosen a project, tell others what you're doing to create a safer community. Promote your project through local media and local officials.
- Use Facebook groups or other social media platforms to invite participants and spread the word!
- Post photos and video of your activity on social media; tag and share with FireSmart Canada. Take lots of action photos!





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.





NEXT STEPS

BECOME A RECOGNIZED FIRESMART NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Contact your provincial/territorial [FireSmart liaison](#), who can help you navigate FireSmart tools and programs.
- Hold your neighbourhood's first FireSmart committee meeting as a step toward becoming a [Recognized FireSmart Neighbourhood](#).
- Learn more about the Neighbourhood Recognition Program at <https://firesmartcanada.ca/programs-and-education/neighbourhood-recognition-program/>





RESOURCES

FireSmart Canada

<https://firesmartcanada.ca>

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day overview

<https://firesmartcanada.ca/programs-and-education/wildfire-community-preparedness-day-2021/>

FireSmart Home Ignition Zone

<https://firesmartcanada.ca/what-is-firesmart/understanding-firesmart/home-ignition-zone/>

FireSmart Canada FireSmart Begins at Home Manual

https://firesmartcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FS_Generic-HomeOwnersManual_Booklet-November-2018-Web.pdf

FireSmart Canada Last-minute Wildfire Checklist

https://firesmartcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/FSC_Wildfire-Evac-Checklist-Final.pdf

FireSmart Canada Guide to Landscaping

<https://firesmartcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/328254-PIP-Landscape-low-res.pdf>

FireSmart Canada Farm and Acreage Magazine

A Guide to reducing risk from wildfire

<https://firesmartcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/farm-and-ranch-magazine-aug-25-compressed.pdf>

FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program

<https://firesmartcanada.ca/programs-and-education/neighbourhood-recognition-program/>

Contact us

<https://firesmartcanada.ca/contact/>