



District of Lantzville

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Emergency Program

Wildland Urban Interface Fire:

Be FireSmart!

In BC, an average of 48% of all wildfires are caused by human activity. If you live in or near a forested area, sooner or later you may have to contend with the spread of a wildfire. **The best protection against loss, damage or injury due to wildfire is prevention!**

The more you can eliminate the things that can lead a wildfire to your home, the more likely your home will survive. Here are some simple steps for evaluating your home ignition zone and making it a deterrent to the progress of the fire:

- Clear up the build up of pine needles and leaves from the base of the house and any connecting structures which could otherwise ignite the home's siding
- Create a 3m, fire free (non-combustible) area on all sides of your home
- Clear trees and shrubs of dead material and keep them pruned. Space trees and shrubs far enough apart to slow the spread of an approaching wildfire
- Choose deciduous trees and shrubs, rather than evergreens for planting close to your home. Evergreens burn fiercely! Plants that shed leaves annually burn more slowly
- Regularly care for your property to keep it free of dead leaves, needles and debris
- Plant native wildflowers and fire-resistant plants; keep lawns trimmed and irrigated as they serve as good fire breaks, as do rock gardens and xeriscapes
- Wide driveways, non-flammable walkways and other pathways can slow or stop the spread of a wildfire
- 'Limb up' trees around the house by removing lower limbs that are within 2.5m of the ground and trim limbs overhanging the house
- Store firewood well away from your house, especially during fire season
- Clear gutters of leaves and debris
- Ensure that chimneys for all wood burning appliances are screened to prevent escape of live embers
- Use metal flashing at all connection points of structures, such as wooden fences attached to the house

CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE AROUND YOUR HOME—REDUCE THE RISK!

IF YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE....

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What is an Evacuation Alert? It's a notification of **DANGER** in your area. Evacuation alerts are issued to advise the population at risk of the potential for loss of life from a hazard and that they should be prepared to evacuate.

What to Do When An Alert is Issued: Gather essential items like medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers, immediate care needs for dependents. Make items available for immediate access for a quick departure.

If you need transportation, the person giving the alert notification will provide you with information regarding making arrangements for transport for you. Know the location of all family members and determine a planned meeting place should an evacuation be called while separated.

Prepare to evacuate disabled persons and children. Relocate large pets and livestock to a safe area immediately if possible. Try to arrange accommodation for your family in the event of an evacuation. Emergency lodging will be provided if necessary.

What is an Evacuation Order? An Evacuation Order will only be issued in response to imminent potential of loss of life or injury because of any *potential* danger to the population at risk. You will be notified through door-to-door contact by RCMP and Search and Rescue members, by radio, social media, and if time permits, print media.

Required Action: Gather up your personal/family emergency kit and proceed quickly and calmly to the nearest evacuation site. Report to the Reception Center indicated in emergency information releases and register with Emergency Social Services volunteers. This will allow for effective communications from the evacuation team and will make it easier for friends and family who may be very concerned about your whereabouts and safety.

Keep a flashlight and a portable radio with you at all times and follow the evacuation instructions which have been provided to you in the Evacuation Alert or Evacuation Order. Ensure you haven't forgotten a necessity, as travel may be one-way only out of your area to allow emergency vehicle access. Take everything you will require for an extended stay and remember that the RCMP will enforce the Evacuation Order.

To report a wildfire call: 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on your cell phone.