WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION FUEL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

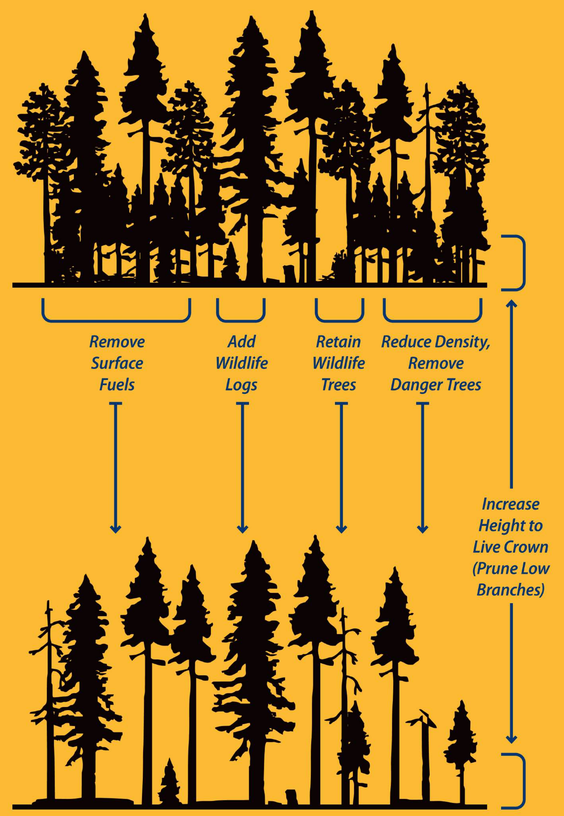
In the absence of naturally occurring wildfires — or when trees have been damaged by disease or pests such as mountain pine beetles — forests can become very dense. Large amounts of flammable material ("forest fuels") may accumulate, including smaller trees, shrubs, other types of vegetation, tree needles and dead leaves.

The primary goals of wildfire risk reduction treatments are to decrease the intensity of future wildfires and minimize the potential for a crown fire to spread or "spot" (when embers are carried away by the wind to start new fires nearby). This is achieved by decreasing the amount of forest fuels available to burn. Treated areas serve as fuel breaks, which help separate fuel sources. Wildfire risk reduction treatments may include:

- **REDUCING** the amount of "ladder fuels" (lower branches that make it easy for a fire to spread to treetops), through pruning, brushing and understory thinning.
- **REDUCING** the amount of "surface fuels" on the forest floor, by gathering combustible material into piles and burning it when regulations allow.
- **THINNING** the forest canopy (where it makes sense to do so) to reduce the spread and intensity of crown fires.
- **REMOVING** dead, standing trees that have the potential to fuel a wildfire or pose a safety risk to people engaged in recreational activities in the area.

A treated area is also easier and safer for firefighters to access, and it provides a better environment for them to successfully suppress a wildfire.

FireSmart is a shared responsibility, and managing forest fuels on Crown land is just one way of reducing wildfire risks in a neighbourhood. Being FireSmart is about learning how to live in a fire-prone environment and taking the necessary steps to protect your family, property and community from wildfires. Over time, FireSmart principles have been shown to effectively reduce the risk of wildfire-related losses under even the most extreme conditions.



BE FIRESMART

Depending on weather conditions, embers from a wildfire may be carried by the wind for several kilometres. These embers or an approaching wildfire could have devestating consequences for nearby homes and properties.
With its ***FireSmart Begins at Home Manual***, the FireSmart Canada program provides advice about reducing the risk of damage to homes, businesses and private land. A good first step is to complete a site hazard assessment to identify wildfire risk. An assessment checklist is included in the *FireSmart Begins at Home Manual*, which is available at:
http://firesmartbc.ca/homemanual

This assessment is a powerful tool for identifying wildfire hazards on private property. FireSmart tips include:

- **REDUCE** wildfire threats by removing dead vegetation or accumulated forest fuels around your home.
- **LOWER** the potential intensity of fires by pruning or thinning nearby trees.
- **CONSIDER** replacing conifers with deciduous trees like aspen or birch, which are more fire-resistant.



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REPORT ALL WILDFIRES TO 1 800 663-5555 OR *5555 ON YOUR CELL. *Learn how to make your community more FireSmart by visiting the BC Wildfire Service website at* ***bcwildfire.ca*** *or the British Columbia FireSmart website at* ***firesmartbc.ca***

RAPP: REPORT ALL POACHERS AND POLLUTERS | 24-Hour Hotline: 1 877 952–RAPP (7277) | rapp.bc.ca