



NEWS RELEASE

March 19, 2020

FIRESMART YOUR SPRING CLEAN-UP

This article is the fourth and final installment to remind and educate residents of the ever-present danger of wildfire in our community. This article will focus on carrying out our individual plan as spring approaches and snow starts to melt.

It is too late to start thinking about making your property FireSmart when a wildfire pops up near you. As winter ends and the spring thaw starts to reveal all of that debris the winter storms have left in your yards, start incorporating FireSmart into your tasks. Ongoing maintenance of FireSmart tasks throughout the year makes the job a lot less daunting.

Below is a list of common and easy things you can do to reduce your risk of property loss due to a wildfire. If you want a more comprehensive list of the hazards around your home, sign up for a free FireSmart Home Assessment by one of our Local Fire Professionals. Having a Home Assessment and completing some of the recommended items, could qualify you for a rebate of up to \$500.

Remember these items on your spring To-Do List:

- Clean your gutters of organic debris
- Trim tree branches to 2 M above ground
- Close in any space under your ground level wood deck
- Keep your grass and vegetation neatly cut and below 6 inches long
- Thin trees to 3 meters between trees in heavily treed areas
- Move burn barrels away from the home and clean up surrounding debris
- Set 15cm of ground clearance from siding
- Remove decorative junipers from around your home
- Remove firewood from within 10 meters of your home
- Clean up wood and other construction materials from around your home
- Remove bark mulch from within 10 meters of your home
- Fill cracks and holes in your siding to prevent ember entrance
- Rake up piles of dried needles and leaves

This is not an exhaustive list, but are simple things that can reduce your risk from a wildfire.

Did you know the CSR D landfills accept yard waste free of charge? Your yard waste is chipped and composted in local facilities. This makes FireSmart activities economical, as well as beneficial in reducing fire risk.



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Considering a renovation or looking at building a new home? Review the FireSmart Home Development Guide and the FireSmart Landscaping Guide to help.

And CSR D residents can have a Free FireSmart Home Assessment to get professional help with assessing fire risk. Make the request online at www.csr d.bc.ca/firesmart.

Want to learn more about FireSmart? Residents can also invite one of our Local Fire Professionals to your next community meeting by calling 250.833.5910. Education is key to reducing individual and community risk.

For further information please contact Tracy Hughes, CSR D Communications Coordinator at 250.833.5963 or toll free at 1.888.248.2773 or email Thughes@csr d.bc.ca.