



# PROTECTING YOUR HOME OR COTTAGE FROM WILDFIRE

The tips below will help you prepare your home and property to help reduce your risks in the case of a wildland fire:

## NON-COMBUSTIBLE ZONE:

A non-combustible zone should extend 0-1.5 meters around your entire home or cottage, and any attachments such as decks, porches, and gazebos.

- You should try to use non-combustible landscape materials such as gravel, brick, or stone in this critical zone
- Shrubs, trees, or tree branches should be avoided.
- Create a non-combustible zone approximately 1.5 meters around and underneath any vehicles and trailers.
- Mitigate sheds and other structures to the same standards as those of your home or cottage.

## PRIORITY ZONE ONE:

The first 10 metres of space around your residence is the priority. Thin or prune any shrubs and trees, remove deadfall or woodpiles from this area and keep your grass mowed and watered. Consider changing conifer trees to hardwood species.

## PRIORITY ZONE TWO:

The area 10 to 30 meters around your home or cottage is classed as the second priority zone.

- Thin and reduce trees in this zone if possible.
- Evergreens such as pine and spruce are much more combustible than deciduous trees
- Regularly clean up accumulation of branches, dried grass, and needles from the ground to eliminate potential surface fuels.

## PRIORITY ZONE THREE:

The third priority zone begins 30 metres from any structure and extends to 100 metres. In this zone the following tips should be followed.

- Thin or remove shrubs and trees that make up the under story, retain fire resistant deciduous trees and manage the canopy to reduce the potential for a crowning fire.
- Regularly clean up accumulation of branches, dried grass, and needles from the ground to eliminate potential surface fuels.
- Look for opportunities to create a fire break by creating space between trees and other potentially flammable vegetation.

## REPLACING SIDING OR ROOFING MATERIAL:

- If you are replacing your roofing materials consider using fire resistant materials such as metal, asphalt, and ULC treated shakes. Untreated wooden shakes and shingles provide no resistance.
- If you are planning to replace or install new siding on your residence consider superior fire-resistant materials such as metal, brick, and concrete. Logs and heavy timbers are less effective, and wood and vinyl offer little protection.



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