



PARTNERS IN
WILDFIRE
RISK
REDUCTION



Who is **BRITISH COLUMBIA FireSmart™** ?

The BC FireSmart Committee (BCFSC)



BC Parks



Emergency Management BC



First Nations' Emergency Services Society
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Parks Canada

Parcs Canada



Indigenous Services Canada

Services aux Autochtones Canada



Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia

What are the goals of the **BRITISH COLUMBIA FireSmart™** program ?

OUR VISION

A wildfire resilient province, where everyone works, plays and lives FireSmart.

OUR MISSION

Build wildfire resiliency and reduce the negative impacts of fire for everyone in the province through FireSmart.

OUR STRATEGIC GOAL

Everyone in the province is aware of FireSmart, understands their role, accepts responsibility and takes action to increase wildfire resiliency.

OUR STRATEGIC THEMES



EVIDENCE



ACCESS



EDUCATION



COLLABORATION



STRUCTURE



ENGAGEMENT

The seven disciplines of FireSmart

- **Education**
- **Vegetation management**
- **Emergency planning**
- **Cross-training**
- **Interagency cooperation**
- **Development considerations**
- **Legislation and planning**





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What is the WUI?



Check out these local examples of “Wildland Urban Interface”. Living in close proximity to forested areas presents a risk to your home and property.



What is a WUI fire?

Where the fuel being consumed by a wildfire...



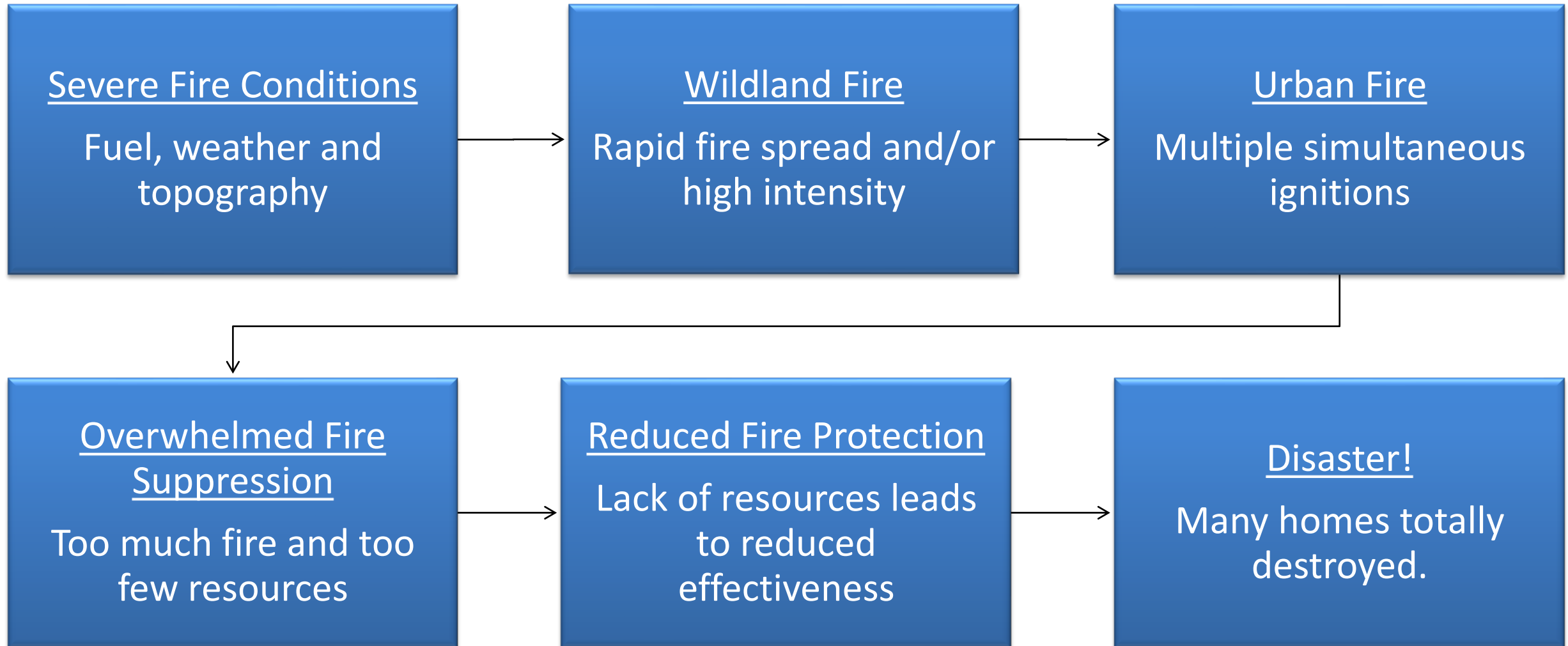
...changes from wildland fuel to urban fuel.



Structural ignition occurs when wildfire embers or flames kindle vulnerable parts of a structure.



WUI Disaster Sequence



Why should I care?



- Being proactive to help prevent the devastating impacts of a WUI fire is everyone's responsibility. It takes a community to save a community.
- Living in a forested area means that you and your community will eventually have to contend with the threat of a wildfire.

Your best protection is
PREVENTION
and your best tool is
the
FireSmart program.



WHAT ACTIONS CAN WE TAKE TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF WILDFIRE ON OUR COMMUNITY?

Press a fire by
removing all three



- 1. REDUCE HEAT** – We do not have control over climate change or the temperature of our environment.
- 2. REDUCE OXYGEN** – This is a reactive response strategy, primarily achieved by smothering an active fire with water or other fire retardants. This method is not very effective on high intensity fires.
- 3. REDUCE FUEL** – This is a preventative strategy which reduces fire intensity and is proven to be the most effective at reducing impacts.

HOW FIRESMART TREATMENTS INFLUENCE WILDFIRE SPREAD



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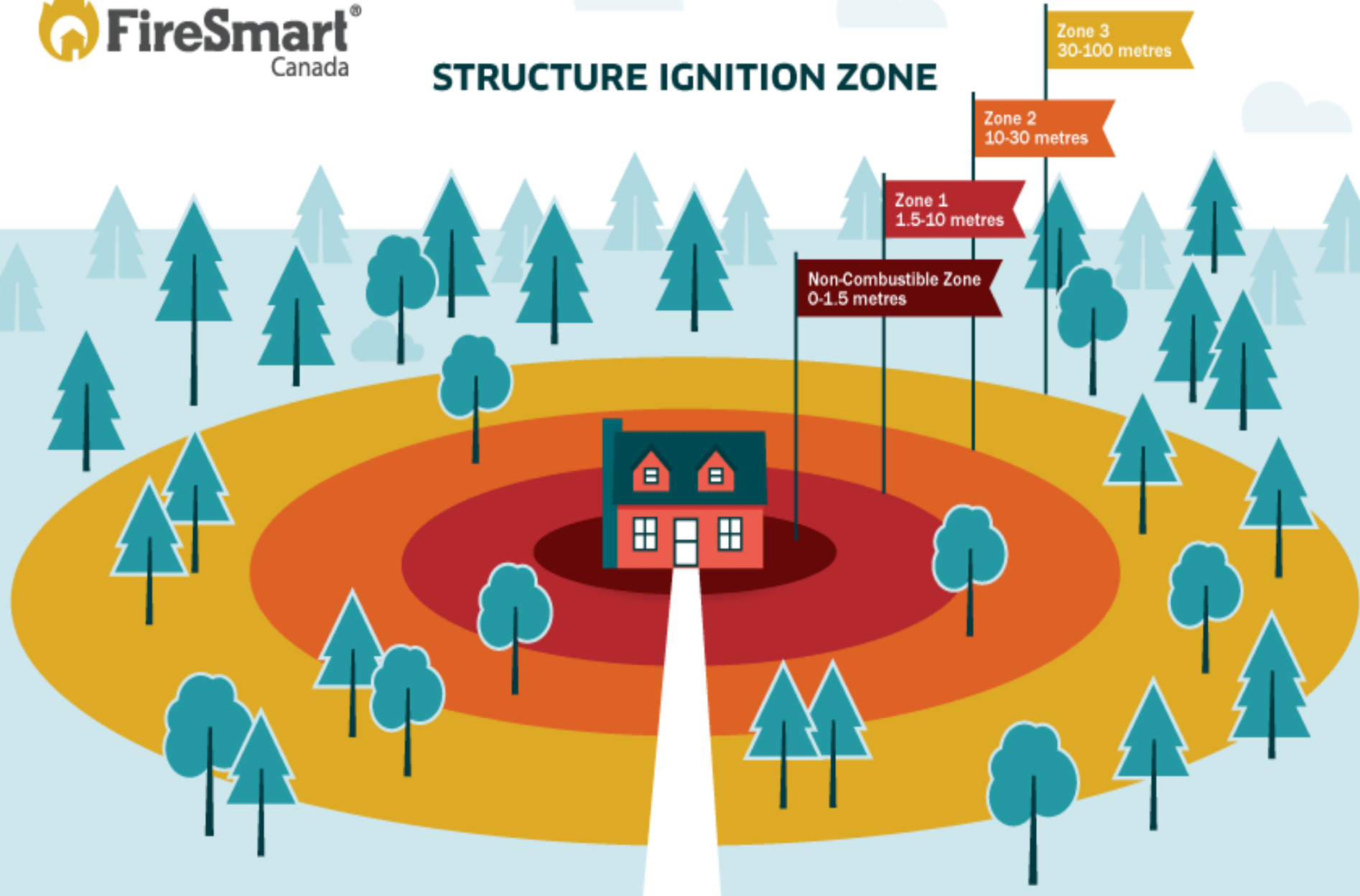
DECREASE THE
DENSITY OF TREES

PRUNE LOWER BRANCHES

REMOVE COMBUSTIBLE SURFACE MATERIALS

- Removing ground fuels, as well as thinning, pruning, and spacing coniferous trees, will reduce the intensity of a fire.
- Reducing the intensity of a fire reduces embers/firebrands and the speed that fire spreads.
- Less embers/slower spread means less chance of a wildfire becoming an urban structure fire.

STRUCTURE IGNITION ZONE



- The Non-Combustible Zone, Zone 1, and Zone 2 are primarily the responsibility of the home-owner/tenant.
- Zone 3 and beyond are the focus of WRR projects being conducted in our area.
- A FireSmart community requires the cooperation and collaboration of private property owners and public land stewards.

Zone 1

- **1.5 to 10 metres from the home**
- Create a FireSmart yard so that fire will not easily transmit to your home.
- Plant low-density, fire-resistant plants and shrubs.
- Avoid planting coniferous trees (cones and needles) in this zone, since they are highly flammable.
- Keep lawns mowed.
- Move firewood piles, construction materials, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of this zone and into Zone 2.



FIRESMART RULES OF THUMB

1 YARD SPACING
Changes within 10 metres of your home, including the removal of combustible surface material, will have the biggest impact.

1.5 – 10 metres

NON-COMBUSTIBLE **ZONE 1**

2 TREE SPACING
Spacing trees at least 3 metres apart will help reduce the intensity of a wildfire.

3 metres

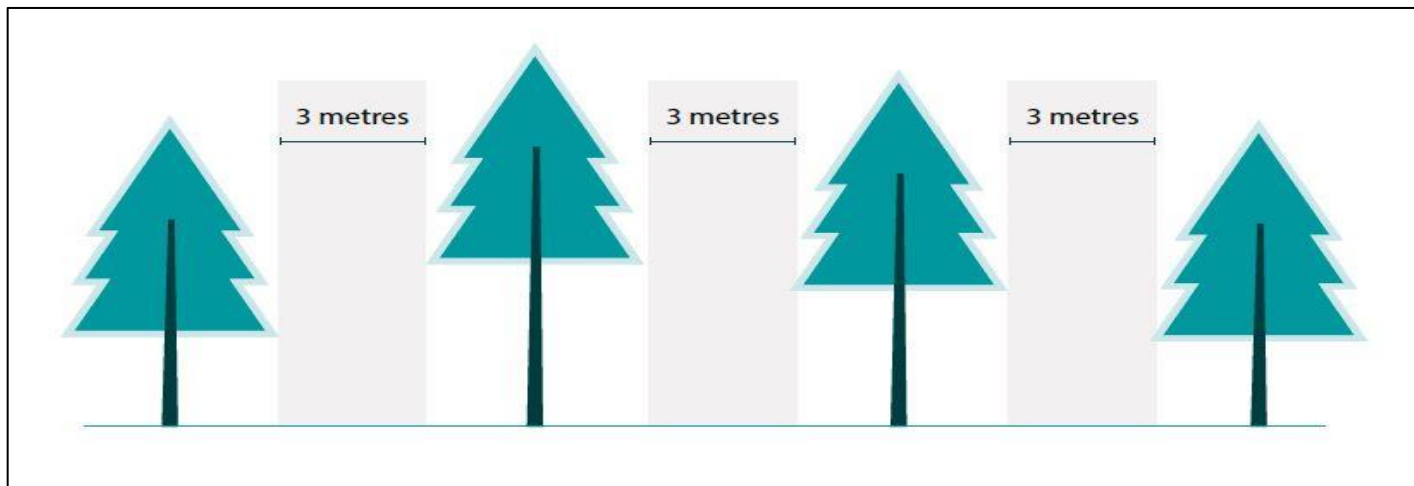
3 PRUNE TREES
Prune all tree branches within 2 metres of the ground.

2 metres

The infographic illustrates three key FireSmart rules for Zone 1. Rule 1, 'Yard Spacing', shows a house and a tree with a 1.5 to 10 metre gap between them, indicating that changes in this zone have the most significant impact. Rule 2, 'Tree Spacing', shows two trees with a 3 metre gap between them, stating that this spacing helps reduce wildfire intensity. Rule 3, 'Prune Trees', shows a person pruning a tree with a 2 metre vertical measurement from the ground to the lowest branch, noting that all branches in this zone should be pruned. The background features a color-coded bar for 'NON-COMBUSTIBLE' and 'ZONE 1'.

Zone 2

- **10 to 30 metres from home**
- Prune and trim evergreen trees to create at least 3 metres of horizontal space between single or grouped tree crowns.
- On the remaining evergreen trees, remove all branches to a height of 2 metres above the ground.
- Regularly clean up fallen branches, dry grass and needles from the ground to eliminate potential surface fuels.



Zone 3

- **30 to 100 metres from home**
- Create an environment that will not support high-intensity crown fires.
- A focus on fuel reduction and conversion (rather than removal) is the main priority in this zone.
- Look for opportunities to create a fire break by creating space between trees and other flammable vegetation.



How can you be more involved with FireSmart activities in your neighbourhood?

The FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP) is designed to help you.



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How to apply for the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP)

Here are the steps needed to become a FireSmart Canada Recognized Neighbourhood.

- 1. Contact a Local FireSmart Representative**
- 2. Form a FireSmart Neighbourhood Committee**
- 3. LFR Conducts Neighbourhood Site Visit and Hazard Assessment**
- 4. Create A FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan with an action plan**
- 5. Implement FireSmart Events and actions**
- 6. Apply for recognition through the online portal**
- 7. Renewing your recognition status yearly**

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