

Prevention Capsule



Wildfires

Extreme weather generally leads to an increase in frequency and severity of wildfires. Each year in Canada, wildfires burn an average of 2.5M hectares and can have destructive repercussions on the affected communities.

Fortunately, valuable steps may be implemented by homeowners to further protect their properties against wildfire. You may consider implementing the following tips.

Residence

- Consider investing in a fire-resistant roofing material such as metal, asphalt, clay and/or composite rubber. Also, make sure there is no accumulation of combustible debris on your roof;



- Maintain and keep gutters clear of debris;
- Replace vinyl exterior siding with aluminium or other fire-resistant materials;
- Treat your wood siding with a fire-retardant product;
- Seal all doors and windows to reduce smoke infiltration into your home.
- Favour double glazed windows since single ones are not heat-resistant.

Within 10 meters of the residence

- Keep this zone clear of combustible materials;
- Treat your deck, fence and other wood structures around the house with a fire-retardant product;
- Ensure that grass is trimmed along the fence lines;
- Avoid using mulch and maintain the plant density as low as possible;
- Avoid plants and trees with needles, aromatic leaves, resins or oils;
- Remove any firewood piles, propane barbecues and gas cans from this zone.

Within 10 to 30 meters of the residence

- Thin and prune coniferous trees;
- Clear away fallen branches, dry grass and dead trees;
- Trees should be spaced apart by at least 3 meters.

Within 30 to 100 meters of the residence

- Create space between trees and try to lower the vegetation density as much as possible;
- Clear away any flammable debris on the ground.



Finding a licensed contractor who has the right skill set to manage the repairs or inspection on your home is recommended.

