
BACKGROUND

May 2010

Ministry of Forests and Range
Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre

PROTECTING YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY FROM WILDFIRE

More and more British Columbians are building homes and recreational properties in rural areas. Wherever residential, industrial or agricultural developments are located near wildland settings with natural vegetation, the area is called the wildland/urban interface. Fires that occur in these areas are known as interface fires.

Here is some information on interface fires and some tips on what you can do to protect your home and property:

- Local fire departments, the Wildfire Management Branch, the Office of the Fire Commissioner, RCMP, B.C. Ambulance Service and the Provincial Emergency Program are typically involved when there is an interface fire.
- These agencies form a unified command structure to jointly determine objectives, identify strategies, establish communication links and assign tasks to protect life and property.
- Property owners can lower the risks to their homes and property in the case of an interface fire by keeping tall grass cut, pruning and thinning trees, removing needles, branches and underbrush, and removing flammable material from around their home.
- Other considerations include choosing a building site that offers natural protection, using building materials that are fire resistant or improve the fire resistance of structures, using FireSmart landscaping principles to reduce a fire's ability to spread, understanding how wildfires start and spread, and knowing what to do in the case of a fire emergency.
- More information and tips on interface fires and protecting homes and properties from interface fires can be found in the FireSmart Homeowner's manual, which is online at <http://bcwildfire.ca/FightingWildfire/safety/pamphlets/FireSmart-BC4.pdf>
- To report a wildfire or unattended campfire call 1-800 663-5555 or *5555 on most cellular networks. For more information on open fire restrictions or for updates on current wildfire activity, visit www.bcwildfire.ca

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Contact: Kim Steinbart
Provincial Fire Information Officer
250 312-3052(office)
250 319-2205 (cell)

More information on wildfires in British Columbia is available on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo> and Facebook at <http://facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo>

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.