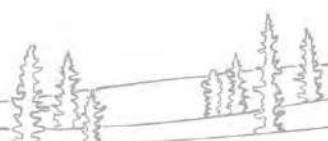




NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
FireSmartTM

Relaunching FireSmart in the NWT

Bigger investments | Better collaboration | Stronger support



What We'll Cover

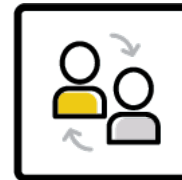
- FireSmart 101
- 2023: a catalyst for FireSmart NWT
- Where we are today
- What are the next steps
- Where we want to be



FireSmart – 101

What is FireSmart?

- Seven disciplines – not just fuel breaks and cleaning up your yard
- A proven path to building wildfire resilience
- A national program that was in-part developed through research done right here in the NWT!



FireSmart – 101

Public education

- Communicating with, and involving, the whole-of-society in FireSmart
- Ensuring people have the knowledge and tools to take action

Examples

- Advertising
- Public information events
- FireSmart programming
- School programming



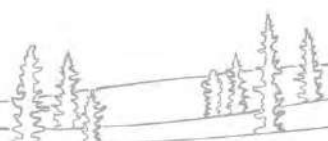
FireSmart – 101

Vegetation management

- Managing forest fuels (i.e. trees) around your community
- Managing combustibles around homes

Examples

- Fuel breaks
- Fuel removal projects
- Yard clean-up
- Cultural and prescribed fires



FireSmart – 101

Interagency cooperation

- All levels of government
- ***Especially*** local fire departments, wildland fire managers, local emergency managers (i.e. public works staff)
- ***But*** – not only these folks. Highways, utilities, pipeline operators, etc. all have roles to play

Examples

- Joint exercises/practice
- Information sharing
-



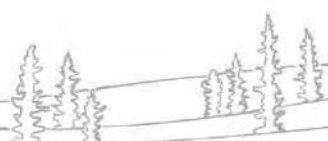
FireSmart – 101

Cross-training

- Structural firefighters + wildland firefighters = **different, but equally important skills**
- **Others in your communities (i.e. public works staff) can also benefit from cross-training in wildfire preparedness related skills**
- When a wildfire reaches a community, need to know how to work together

Examples

- S-115 (Structure and Site Preparation) training for wildland fire events
- FireSmart program training (Advanced Home Assessment, Neighbourhood Recognition Program)



FireSmart – 101

Planning

- *“A failure to plan is a plan to fail” – every hack presenter*
- Making sure you work ahead of time to be ready to act

Examples

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- Interface Response Plans
- Community Emergency Plans



FireSmart – 101

Development considerations

- *Have I considered FireSmart from the start in building my community?*
- Making sure you work ahead of time to be ready to act

Examples

- Development Permitting requirements
- Land use planning
- Building codes and standards



FireSmart – 101

Legislation

- Have we considered FireSmart in our laws?
- Another step to building FireSmart into the DNA of your community

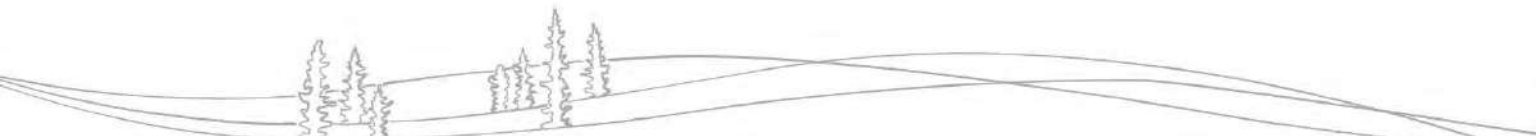
Examples

- FireSmart bylaws
- FireSmart territorial laws and regulations
- Model bylaw development





2023 – A Catalyst for FireSmart NWT



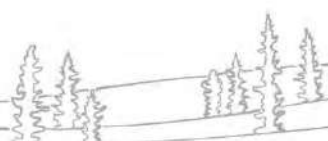
2023 – A Catalyst For FireSmart NWT

Wildfire Operations Independent Review

- Identified significant gaps in preparedness
 - Communication with communities
 - Collaboration between local fire depts. and wildland fire managers
 - Cross-training gaps leading to response challenges
 - Major funding challenges for addressing these gaps

Listening to communities

- Felt they weren't getting the support needed to build wildfire resilience



2024 – The Relaunch Takes Shape



**ESTABLISHED
DEDICATED
PREVENTION AND
MITIGATION TEAM**



**INCREASED STAFF
CAPACITY**



**DEDICATED
STRATEGIC
DIRECTION**



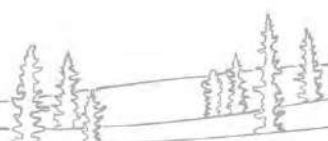
**INCREASED
PROGRAM DELIVERY
CAPACITY**



**OVERHAUL OF
FIRESMART NWT
WEBSITE AND
RESOURCES**



**SECURED
ADDITIONAL MULTI-
YEAR FUNDING TO
ADVANCE WILDFIRE
PREPAREDNESS
THROUGH
FIRESMART**



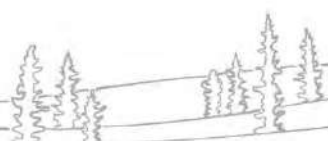
2024/2025 – Baby Steps

Spring/Summer 2024

- Began delivering FireSmart programming
 - Advanced Home Assessments
 - Neighbourhood Recognition Program

Summer/Fall 2024

- Began training local governments on FireSmart programming
- Canvassed regions and local governments to find fuel management projects to support and revitalize ongoing planning



2025/2026 – The Hard Relaunch – Phase 1

Bigger Investments

- FireSmart NWT Community Wildfire Resilience Contributions
- NWTAC CWPP Implementation Funding

Stronger support

- Expanded offerings of basic cross-training for Wildland Urban Interface response (S-115)
- Facilitating higher-level training and exercises with communities who have capacity today

Better Collaboration

- FireSmart Regional and Territorial Committees

Building on what's worked

- Continued FireSmart program delivery
- Cross-training more local fire depts. on FireSmart programming
- Aggressive promotional efforts and resource-sharing across the FireSmart NWT network (YOU!)



Focus On: Community Wildfire Resilience Contributions

Funding available

- Maximum 300k per applicant annually
- **Is not reimbursement-based – upfront funding available**

Who is eligible

- Governments
- Non-Profits
- Indigenous organizations
- Neighborhood Associations (with support from any of above)

Eligible projects

- Any project advancing seven FireSmart disciplines
- Cannot be used for research, enforcement, wildfire suppression-primary equipment/training, projects already available for funding under NWTAC CWPP Implementation funding

How to apply

- Fill out an application
- Email to FireSmart_Intellifeu@gov.nt.ca



Program information



<https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/services/apply-firesmart-community-wildfire-resilience-contributions>

Focus On: Community Wildfire Resilience Contributions

Building on CWPP Implementation funding

- Intended to fund projects which cannot be funded under NWTAC CWPP Implementation Funding
- Can be used to enhance or expand upon these projects (i.e. wider breaks, maintenance funding, etc.)

When to apply

- Applications open year-round until fully-subscribed

Who can help?

- The GNWT Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Unit
- Email us: FireSmart_Intellifeu@gov.nt.ca



Program information



<https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/services/apply-firesmart-community-wildfire-resilience-contributions>

Focus On: Basic Wildland Urban Interface Cross-Training

S-115 (Structure and Site Preparation Training)

- Basic structure protection training
- Focuses on structure defense strategies (i.e. sprinkler set up)
- Better prepares local staff to participate in a Wildland Urban Interface event as part of an incident (working under appropriate supervision)
- ICS-100 to be completed by all participants (available for free online)

Who is it for?

- Best for firefighters, but also relevant to public works staff who may be expected to stay behind during a wildfire event

Who will lead it?

- Currently led by ECC trainers

When will it be offered?

- To be offered as part of engagement visits this summer beginning mid-May.
- Request it: [FireSmart Intellifeu@gov.nt.ca](mailto:FireSmart_Intellifeu@gov.nt.ca)
- We will also reach out proactively when planning trips to communities

What is the time commitment?

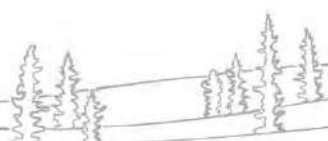
- 1 day, or two evening (to match local FD schedules) course]



Focus On: FireSmart Regional Committees

What are they for?

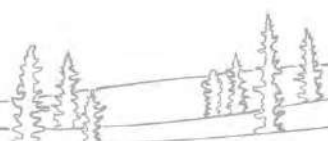
- Advisory committees.
- Forum for community and regional-level collaboration and information sharing on FireSmart
- Identify, collaborate, and share progress on projects driving local and regional advancement of FireSmart disciplines (i.e. community-based fuel mitigation projects, FireSmart program delivery, interface response planning, tabletop exercises)
- Engage all communities + Indigenous governments on a regular basis as they relate to wildfire preparedness
- Provide a forum for organizing/delivering capacity-building (i.e. training, seminars, guest speakers)
- Raise awareness of FireSmart resources and support available.
- Forum for consistent updates on challenges, implementation of CWPPs



Focus On: FireSmart Regional Committees

Committee structure

- Chaired by ECC – Regional Manager of Forestry or delegate
- Local fire departments
- Community governments
- Indigenous governments
- Indigenous organizations
- Other GNWT and agency reps (i.e. MACA, Housing)



Focus On: FireSmart Regional Committees

Funding to support

- Funding is available to support each committee in two virtual, and one in-person meeting/year
- Includes relevant per diems, honoraria, travel costs for in-person meetings

When they will start

- Letters to solicit members are being completed – all of your organizations should receive invitation to identify a representative in the next 1-2 months
- Meetings to begin in Fall after wildfire season



Focus On: Structure Protection Planning For Critical Assets

Goal

- Expand capacity to regularly review critical infrastructure in communities
- Provide governments and organizations tools to take wildfire mitigation into their own hands
- Provide advice on tasks to increase facility resilience
- Provide advice on equipment to purchase proactively to protect critical infrastructure

Summer/Fall 2024

- Began training local governments on FireSmart programming
- Canvassed regions and local governments to find fuel management projects to support and revitalize ongoing planning



Focus On: Structure Protection Planning For Critical Assets

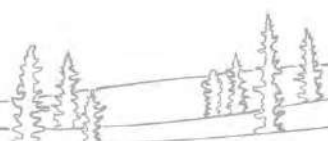
Program Pathway

Step one: Express interest

- Start by reaching out to let us know you wish to schedule assessments for your facilities.

Be prepared with the following information:

- Community or communities your facility or facilities are in.
- Whether they are nearby or adjacent to forests, or whether they are primarily located in wildland fuel-free environments (i.e. downtown locations in Yellowknife).
- The number of facilities and their names.
- Addresses of facilities.
- Contact information for relevant staff member(s) for the facility or facilities



Focus On: Structure Protection Planning For Critical Assets

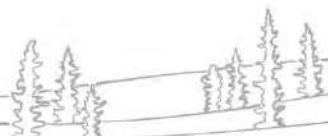
Program Pathway

Step two: site assessments

- Assessments will be prioritized based on relative threat from wildfires.
 - For example, where there are lower levels of threat due to fuels, topography, recent fire history, or other factors, assessments may occur later than for those received in communities at greater threat.
- A wildfire prevention and mitigation professional will arrange a site visit to complete assessments.

Step three: assessment follow-up

- Upon completion of site visits, a report will be forwarded to facility contacts, regional managers of forests, forest officers, and prevention and mitigation team.
- Organization to review report; follow-up questions regarding completion of work and procurement are welcome.



Focus On: Structure Protection Planning For Critical Assets

Program Pathway

Step four: procurement of equipment

- Should your organization wish to move forward with procurement of equipment, let us know along with expected delivery dates.
 - **Email:**
FireSmart_Intellifeu@gov.nt.ca



Focus On: Structure Protection Planning For Critical Assets

Program Pathway

Step five: setup, testing

- Upon arrival, contact us to organize a follow-up site visit to set up, receive training, and test the equipment.

Step six: maintenance

- Annual setup, maintenance, and testing of equipment should be managed by your organization.



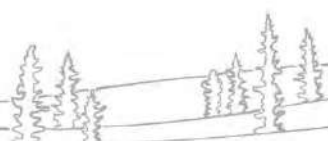
Focus On: Structure Protection Planning For Critical Assets

When it starts

- The program will be launched formally in the next month
- Assessments to be available over the summer engagement season

Who to contact

- The Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Unit
 - [FireSmart Intellifeu@gov.nt.ca](mailto:FireSmart_Intellifeu@gov.nt.ca)



2025-2027 – Where We Want To Go

Getting vegetation management rolling

- New and existing funding allows us to get into a rhythm of planning and execution.
- Supporting communities in accessing existing funding
- Working to get more prescribed fire on the ground in partnership with communities (start small)

FireSmart Committees Come Into Their Own

- All committees are healthy, self-sustaining, and meeting participant needs
- Bringing them all together for similar gatherings to this one – keep the information-sharing and learning going!

Getting Interface Response Planning where it needs to be

- More support to regional wildfire operators, communities for getting Interface Response Plans completed to standard



2025-2027 – Where We Want To Go

Developing a culture of preparedness

- Plans are the foundation
- Drive the importance of practice and exercises based on those plans
- **Requires effort from all levels, and all sectors of government; proactive, annual planning**

Building a stronger Wildland Urban Interface training and response framework

- Work with OFM, communities to get it right
- Train our people to build local training capacity
- Develop a response framework that works for the realities of the NWT



2027-2028 – Making The Case For Sustained Funding

Demonstrating our progress

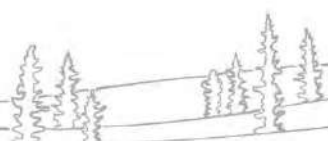
- Sharing successes from across our territory

Demonstrating impact

- Show how our shared efforts moved people from planning to action
- Case studies and stories about how the work made a difference

Secure funding

- Make the increased funding our baseline for supporting wildfire resilience across the NWT going forward.



Vision 2028: FireSmart NWT Network Is Sustainable, Thriving

- Only possible with the dedication, perseverance, and involvement of everyone in this room.
- Strengthening our partnerships, being open to helping each other are key
- Let's make today the start of a renewed relationship and partnership for a more FireSmart NWT!



Thank you! Questions?

Need help on your FireSmart journey? Have questions later on?

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Email

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