

## BUILD & MAINTAIN A STRONG FOUNDATION



- Your people
- Your plans

- Wildfire preparedness lead and team
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- Interface Response Plan
- Community Emergency Plan

*Each community's wildfire preparedness foundation will look different, depending on its risks, resources and experience.*



## TRAIN AND GET READY

- Training people
- Practicing plans and tactics

- FireSmart program training for fire department and/or community staff (Advanced Home Assessment Program and Neighbourhood Recognition Program)
- S-115 Structure and Site Preparation Training (to support response during Wildland Urban Interface Events)
- Emergency management training - Incident Command System (ICS)
- Practices and exercises



## TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE RISK

- Reducing fuels
- Improving structures
- Purchasing and maintaining equipment

- FireSmart programs and materials to reduce fuels in community
- Vegetation management to reduce fuels around the community (follow your CWPP)
- Equipment purchase and maintenance



## PARTNER & COLLABORATE

- Information sharing
- Joint applications and projects
- Supporting each other

- Regional FireSmart Advisory Committee
- Ongoing communication between all levels of government
- Joint funding applications, projects and investments
- Activities to inform and involve members of your community

# DRAFT COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS BASICS

## TRAIN AND GET READY

- Training people
- Practicing plans and tactics

### Get FireSmart program training for fire department and/or community staff

Improves local staff awareness and knowledge of FireSmart. You can then choose to offer FireSmart programming locally. Two main programs: **Advanced Home Assessment Program** and **Neighbourhood Recognition Program**.

### Get S-115 Structure and Site Preparation Training

Critical **boots-on-the-ground practical training on strategies and tactics for responding during Wildland Urban Interface Events** (when a wildfire moves toward and into community boundaries). Useful for fire department, public works staff, or other **staff who may be asked to stay behind during a wildfire event**.

### Get emergency management training – Incident Command System (ICS)

Territorial emergency plans and all wildfire incidents are run using ICS – a common system for emergency management. When different levels of government work together, **if everyone is trained in ICS, they will all work better in a team when emergencies happen**.

### Implement and practice your plans

When the people involved in preparedness understand how to use your plans and train for them, they **will be better prepared to put them into action**.

- Use the training recommendations in your CWPP.
- Run your own community response plan exercises.
- Arrange Interface Response Plan practices with regional forestry staff.
- Work with MACA to run tabletop and other exercises of your Community Emergency Plan.

## TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE RISK

- Reducing fuels
- Improving structures
- Purchasing and maintaining equipment

### FireSmart your community

Encourage and support residents to **reduce fuels in their homes and yards** using FireSmart programs and materials.

- Deliver **FireSmart Advanced Home Assessment and Neighbourhood Recognition Programs** in your community.
- Promote a **Community Wildfire Preparedness Day and Grants**.

### Reduce fuels around the community

Implement the **vegetation management practices identified in your CWPP**.

- Fuel breaks
- Thinning, cutting or replacing the vegetation that can fuel fire
- Using fire to reduce hazards (prescribed burns and/or cultural burning)

### Purchase and maintain equipment

Make sure your community has access to the equipment you need to protect residents, critical infrastructure, and important places.

- **Know what equipment is available from ECC** and how to access it.
- To determine what equipment you may need to buy, you can request a **Critical Infrastructure Assessment** through the GNWT Prevention and Mitigation Unit (FireSmart\_Intellifeu@gov.nt.ca). This will provide recommendations for equipment. A completed **Interface Response Plan** will also identify key equipment needs.
- Include **equipment maintenance** in your regular schedule.

## PARTNER AND COLLABORATE

- Information sharing
- Joint applications and projects
- Supporting each other

### Participate in your Regional FireSmart Advisory Committee

**GNWT is establishing one committee per region** and inviting each community and Indigenous government to provide one member. These will help everyone work together to advance FireSmart projects, collaborate on funding, share information, and solve problems to build more prepared, resilient communities.

### Maintain ongoing communication between all levels of government

Communication and information-sharing should be happening **before, during, and after the wildfire season** to help communities be more prepared and resilient.

### Work with other communities and partners on joint funding applications, projects and investments

Communities are encouraged to work together to make the investments to improve wildfire preparedness. Funding sources include:

- **GNWT Community Wildfire Resilience Contributions**
- **NWTAC Community Wildfire Protection Plan Implementation Funding**
- Other opportunities such as **Federation of Canadian Municipalities programs**

### Inform and involve members of your community

Governments can plan information events, advertising, or other communications efforts year-round based on most relevant direction by season.

- FireSmart program delivery (May to October)
- Public education and events
- Grassroots collaboration

## BUILD AND MAINTAIN YOUR BASE

- Your people
- Your plans

*We recognize that fire is part of the landscape and that we must learn to live with fire. We use our knowledge and the advice of experts to understand and address the wildfire risks in our community and to prepare to respond if wildfire comes.*

## KEY COMPONENTS

### Establish your wildfire preparedness lead

It is important to decide who will own, guide and implement your wildfire preparedness plans and supporting activities. This can involve more than one person **but it is important to ensure someone is responsible and accountable**.

### Complete & update your Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

This is your core plan. It is a critical document that everyone with preparedness responsibilities should know, use and keep up to date. **It looks at your specific wildfire risks and plans how to address them** based on your situation and resources, including vegetation management, access to water, options for improving buildings, public education, training and collaboration.

### Work with the GNWT's wildland fire staff to develop an Interface Response Plan

An essential plan to ensure your **community and territorial wildland fire fighters are ready to work together to respond when a wildfire approaches or comes into your community**. It details what resources are available to fight the fire (equipment, capacity, water sources and delivery, etc.) Describes the strategies and tactics that will be used.

### Maintain an up-to-date Community Emergency Plan

Communities are required to complete emergency plans. They identify **what you will do to keep your people safe when emergency events like wildfire threaten your community**. MACA offers community planning workshops to help you get your plan done.