

Help reduce the risk of wildfires

To help you reduce the risk of wildfire, follow these fire safety tips.

Controlled burns

If you need to burn grass, bush piles or stubble on your property, plan ahead for a safe outcome:

- Do not plan a controlled burn if there is a fire ban in your municipality.
- In Saskatchewan, call 1-866-404-4911 before you start your controlled burn. By reporting these controlled burns in advance, you'll avoid dispatching firefighters unnecessarily.
- Have fire guards in place around the area where you wish to burn.
- Have access to hoses, fire extinguishers and a water source before you begin your controlled burn.
- Pay attention to the weather. Most grass fires and wildfires start during hot, dry and windy conditions. Don't burn in these weather conditions.

Reduce ignition sources

It's possible to unintentionally start a grass fire or wildfire in dry conditions. Reduce the risk by following these tips:

- Dispose of cigarettes and matches correctly. Don't throw them out of a vehicle.
- Avoid driving through or parking on dry grass. A vehicle's exhaust can reach a temperature of more than 538 degrees Celsius (1,000 degrees Fahrenheit). It only takes about 260 degrees Celsius (500 degrees Fahrenheit) to start a fire.
- Don't use machines or tools that may cause sparks during dry conditions. If you must use a tool such as a grinder, wet down your working area and have a fire extinguisher handy.
- Teach your children not to play with fire or with matches. Fire can spread quickly.

Be FireSmart

Reduce the risk of fire around your home and community by practicing the FireSmart tips below and those found in our FireSmart Guides at saskpublicsafety.ca:

- Keep your lawn cut and your gardens and paths well-maintained and leaves raked up.
- Keep woodpiles away from your home.
- Cut the grass around your outbuildings and around tanks or other containers that may contain flammable materials.
- Do not burn trash or leaves unless they are in a damp or grass-free area.

Municipal preparations

Typically, a community's fire service, emergency management and related planning are the responsibility of that local municipality. The province's role is to provide assistance, if requested. To prepare for possible emergencies, local officials should:

- Review their community's emergency plans to ensure the information and contacts contained are up-to-date;
- Be aware of the fire risk in their area and consider implementing a fire ban;
- Consider taking an emergency management course in incident command or wildland fire suppression from the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency; and
- Contact the Emergency Services Officer assigned to their area if they have questions about or need assistance with their community's emergency preparedness.