

Protect Your Home with a Free FireSmart Wildfire Mitigation Assessment

Dear Residents,

As wildfire seasons continue to become longer and more severe across British Columbia, one of the most effective steps homeowners can take to protect their property is to participate in a FireSmart Wildfire Mitigation Assessment.

Our fire department is pleased to offer this service through the FireSmart BC Wildfire Mitigation Program, with qualified Wildfire Mitigation Specialists (WMS) trained to evaluate residential properties and provide practical recommendations to reduce wildfire risk.

What is a FireSmart Wildfire Mitigation Assessment?

A Wildfire Mitigation Assessment is a comprehensive evaluation of your home's wildfire resilience. During the assessment, a trained specialist examines the home's exterior, roofing, vents, decks, landscaping, vegetation, combustible storage, emergency access, and the three Home Ignition Zones surrounding the home.

The assessment generally takes about an hour and half. Following the visit, homeowners receive a detailed report with practical recommendations to reduce wildfire risk.

Assessment results remain confidential unless the homeowner chooses to share them.

FireSmart Certification

After recommended work is completed, a follow-up inspection may be conducted.

Homes meeting the criteria receive a FireSmart Wildfire Mitigation Certificate and documentation that may be shared with participating insurance providers.

Insurance Benefits

BCAA Home Insurance currently offers a **15% discount for one policy term after completing an assessment**. Homeowners who complete the recommended mitigation work and obtain FireSmart certification may also qualify for an ongoing 10% discount, subject to policy terms.

https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/FireSmart_WMP_Brochure_3B.pdf

The Co-operators also participates as a FireSmart BC insurance partner. Clients who become certified through the FireSmart BC Wildfire Mitigation Program may qualify for a **discount on the wildfire-peril portion of their home insurance premium**.

https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/FireSmart_WMP_Co-op_Brochure_3B.pdf

Why FireSmart Matters

Research has shown that many homes are ignited by wind-driven embers rather than direct flames. Simple actions such as cleaning gutters, screening vents, reducing

combustible vegetation, and creating defensible space can significantly improve a home's survivability during a wildfire.

By participating, homeowners help protect their family, improve firefighter safety, strengthen community resilience, and may reduce insurance costs.

We encourage all homeowners to take advantage of this valuable program. If you would like to schedule a FireSmart Wildfire Mitigation Assessment or learn more, please contact Carol Waldo at **firesmart@gabriolafire.ca**

Together, we can build a safer, more FireSmart community.

Sincerely,

Fire Prevention Division
Gabriola Fire Rescue