



Town of Hay River FireSmart Program

The Town of Hay River FireSmart Program will be comprised of 7 principles. Education, Vegetation Management, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperations, Cross Training and Emergency Planning. All these principles create a framework to address wildfire risks within our community.

Communication and Education Program

- Public communication on a weekly basis on fire smarting.
 - These messages will be posted on social media and the Town of Hay River Website weekly.
- We will be installing a Billboard downtown in a centralized location to show the current fire risk to the community.
- We will be highlighting homes and homeowners who have FireSmarted their property with before and after photos to show the great work they have accomplished.
- We will be promoting a Community FireSmart day in coordination with the Annual Curbside Community Cleanup scheduled to commence the first week of June to accomplish two things:
 1. To encourage residents to FireSmart their property
 2. the town will haul away their brush free of charge to reduce improper or hazardous disposal of the brush.

Vegetation Management

Advanced Home Assessment Program

- The Town of Hay River will be sharing resources for homeowners to conduct FireSmart Residential Property Assessments and the Hay River Fire Department will be available from May 10th until June 10th to do home FireSmart assessments. To request a free home FireSmart Assessment contact: townhall@hayriver.com or Phone 867-874-6522 and speak to the receptionist to schedule your Assessment. Submit a before and after photo of your firesmarted property to townhall@hayriver.com for a chance to win a home wildfire sprinkler protection kit. Details at: www.hayriver.com/emergency
- To request a free home FireSmart Assessment contact: townhall@hayriver.com or Phone 867-874-6522 and speak to the receptionist to schedule your Assessment.

Wildfire Protection Plan Update

- The Town of Hay River will be working with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) to review the remaining wildfire risk to the community and update the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This plan has prioritized mitigation projects to reduce the risk to areas within the community.

Legislation and Planning

The Town of Hay River will be recommending changes to the unsightly bylaw to incorporate major FireSmart risks to other properties as a violation. We will also be prioritizing derelict property enforcement throughout the year.

Development Considerations

The Town of Hay River will also be considering implementing municipal development bylaws based on FireSmart principles to reduce the town's vulnerability to wildfires in higher risk areas of the community. This work would be part of building standard updates that consider other impacts of relevant climate change risks such as floods.

Interagency Cooperations

The Town of Hay River is dedicated to working with our neighboring communities and indigenous governments to better prepare and coordinate response to the threat of wildfire. The Town of Hay River will be working to establish MOU with our partners for response.

Cross Training

The Town of Hay River local emergency management organization and other partner agencies have been receiving Incident Command System training in the lead up to this wildfire season.

The HRFD will be training in wild land urban interface in late May to prepare them for response to wildfire. The HRFD will also look to cross train with the department of ECC to ensure compatibility of equipment and development of joint operation Communication, skills, and tactics.

Emergency Planning

The Town of Hay River underwent a major review and update to the current town emergency plan as a result of the experienced gained from the 2023 wildfires. The Town of Hay River will also be exercising their plan with wildfire scenarios with the local emergency management organization and partner agencies.

