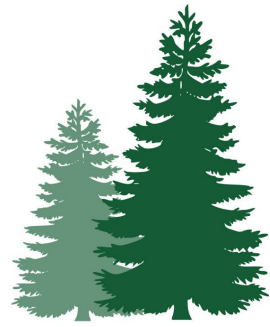




HALL ROAD HERALD

July 29, 2026



FireSmart Update for Hall Roaders

By Brad Rix and Don Plant

Most Hall Roaders recall the stress we endured three years ago when the McDougall Creek fire launched thousands of embers across Okanagan Lake and sparked a destructive wildfire near McKinley Landing.

Thankfully, the embers that flew into the trees of Mission Creek Park were cold by the time they landed. Even so, Hall Road volunteers organized patrols to drive around the neighbourhood searching for spot fires every night during the crisis.

This summer is shaping up to be the worst fire season since 2023. Given how close the Mission Creek Landing care home and 300-plus houses are to the park, our neighbourhood faces a significant wildfire risk.

Your neighbourhood association has been badgering local authorities to remove forest fuels from parks and public areas. The regional district says the soonest fuel-mitigation work will begin in Mission Creek Park is two years from now because other areas have higher priority. Crews recently brush-cut the vegetation alongside trails in the ponds area of Sutherland Hills – the park portion closest to Hall Road. Smoking and campfire bans apply year-round.

School District 23, which owns the city-managed Johnson Road Park and the green section at Hall and Johnson, says workers will cut the tall grass there soon. Other public areas, like the new city-operated Cottonwood Park north of the new roundabout, also need attention.

For now, the onus to reduce the fire risk remains largely on us. We're responsible for removing the tall grass and wild shrubs on our boulevards. And it's up to us to make our properties more resilient if a fire breaks out.

We've collected FireSmart advice for homeowners so they can reduce the risk of fire destroying their houses. Pat Barton, the Kelowna Fire Department's fire mitigation officer, walked through one of our properties last week. The main things we can do to protect our homes, he said, is clean out our roof gutters and vents, and remove our cedar hedges. Or at least clear the dead interior.

Other tips firefighters suggest:

- Replace your shake roof with metal, cement fibre or asphalt shingles;
- Trim trees two metres above ground and 1.5 metres from buildings;
- Move wooden furniture away from house when you're away;
- Don't store firewood against buildings;
- Clear all flammable material within 1.5 metres of your home;
- Blow needles and cones off your roof;
- Protect the open area under your deck so embers don't get in;
- Hang tarps to cover the doorway of your carport if there's material inside;
- Install a metal gate.

Another tactic is installing a roof sprinkler that hangs from your gutter and sprays water in a 30-foot radius. WASP Wildfire, a Kelowna company, sells a full protection kit for \$250 and is offering groups of 10 sprinklers with hoses for \$150 each, plus tax and shipping (visit waspwildfire.com). If enough homeowners agree to buy one, protecting your roof is affordable. Send us an email at info@hallroad.ca if you'd like to buy a kit so we can pool 10 or more requests.

Once you get a sprinkler, you must register with the fire department. If a wildfire erupts nearby, firefighters would coordinate the water flow for each sprinkler. Otherwise, they'd lose hydrant pressure if everyone turned theirs on. And don't leave home with your sprinkler on -- the KFD may turn off your water, Barton said.

We've attached the "B.C. FireSmartYour Home" handout, which lists 15 tips to protect your home. If enough of us take steps to mitigate the fire risk, we help our neighbours and can prevent a disaster in this paradise we call home.

So please. Let's talk to each other. Saving everyone's home is priceless.



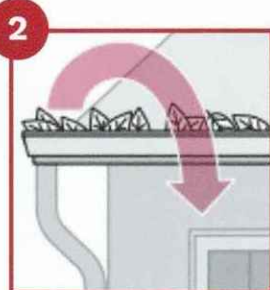
BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmart™



FIRESMART™ YOUR HOME



1
Install Class A Fire-resistant roof covering (e.g., cement fibre, metal or asphalt shingles).



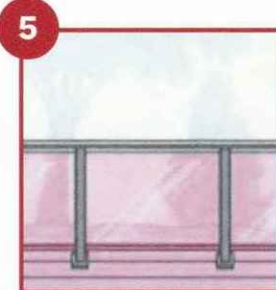
2
Remove needles, leaves and other debris from gutters, roof surfaces, decks and balconies. Regularly clean vents.



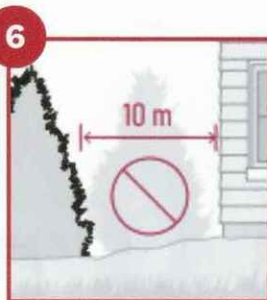
3
Install non-combustible siding (stucco, metal, stone, cement fibre board).



4
Install multi-pane or tempered glass windows and exterior fire rated doors.



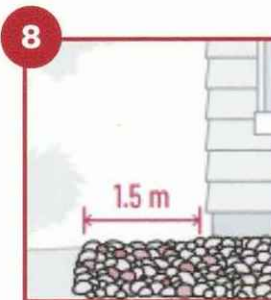
5
Retrofit all deck components to be fire-rated materials.



6
Remove conifer trees that are within 10 m of the house.



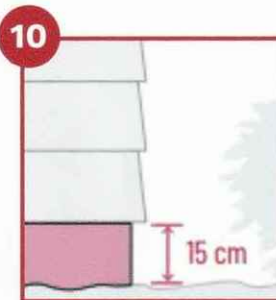
7
Remove all combustible ground cover (mulch and plants) within 1.5 m of house perimeter.



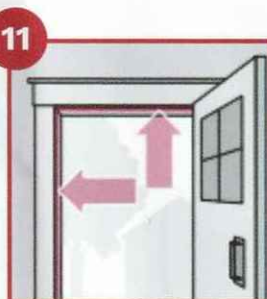
8
Install non-combustible ground surfacing within 1.5 m of the house (mineral soil, rock, concrete or stone).



9
Install non-combustible fencing within 1.5 m of the house (cement fiber, metal, chain link or stone).



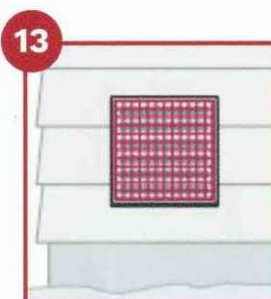
10
Create a 15 cm ground-to-siding non-combustible clearance (e.g., install cement board or metal skirting).



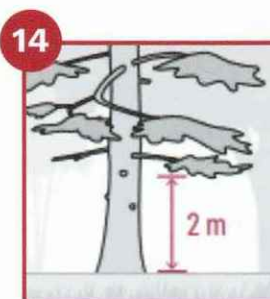
11
Replace worn or missing weather stripping on all doors including garage doors.



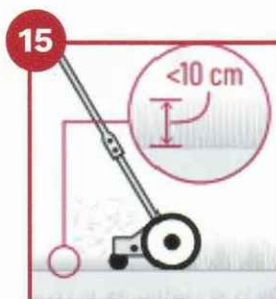
12
Remove combustible materials (firewood and lumber) stored within 10 m of house perimeter and under decks.



13
Add a non-combustible 3 mm screen to all external vents, except dryer vents, furnace intake and exhausts.



14
Prune trees to create a 2 m clearance from the ground to the lowest tree branches.



15
Mow the lawn to 10 cm and plant low-growing well-spaced shrubs and other fire-resistant plants.

Stutters
Restorations


Kelowna
Fire Department

✉ firesmart@kelowna.ca
🌐 www.firesmartbc.ca