

# WAIPAROUS FIRESMART NEWS

Spring 2021

## FireSmart Home Inspections

Great news, Alberta Wildfire has offered us an opportunity to complete FireSmart Home Inspections **April 19 - 23**.

**This is a chance for a personalized property tour with a wildfire expert!** As always, the inspections are free, non-obligatory, and used for homeowner & resident education purposes.

**You can sign up if you are interested in participating by contacting Sherri Bureyko no later than Thursday April 15, 2021**

- **Email** [admin@waiparous.ca](mailto:admin@waiparous.ca),
- **Text** 403-510-8083, or
- **Phone** 403-510-8083

**Just send in your name, phone number, and Waiparous address.**

Site access and arrangements will be coordinated directly by the officers, ideally the resident is home during the outdoor inspection, yet with Covid restrictions creative workarounds are available (telephone, FaceTime, written etc.)



### Event Details:

Date: Saturday, May 1, 2021 Location: Meet at the CSB Parking Lot  
Time: 10:00AM - 2:00PM Info: Village Workbee - details forthcoming

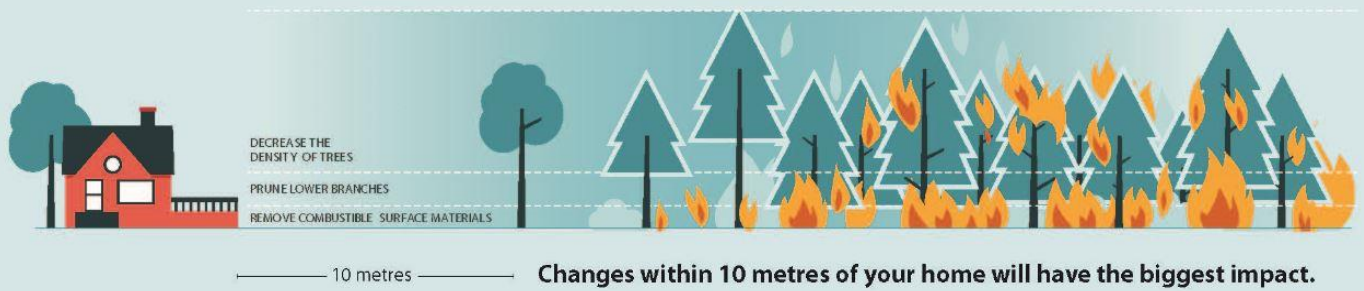
### In support with our local sponsors:

**EBBS FORESTRY – Keith Ebb s**

**OWL CREEK SERVICES – Larry Anderson**

**CCI – Ken Birkett**

## HOW FIRESMART TREATMENTS INFLUENCE WILDFIRE SPREAD



Waiparous FireSmart Committee Members  
Joleen Molenaar Matt Sundal Jason Marks

## Wildfire Update for the Calgary Forest Area

### CURRENT CONDITIONS IN THE CALGARY FOREST AREA

Cooler temperatures combined with rain and snow have contributed to a drop in the fire danger rating. Areas of exposed dead and dry grass will continue to pose a real danger for spring wildfires. Until green up starts in mid-May, the wildfire danger will be very dependent on the short-term weather. The fire danger remains low in snow covered areas and at higher elevations.

### WILDFIRES IN THE CALGARY FOREST AREA

Over the past week, two wildfires (CWF-008, CWF-009) were reported in the Calgary Forest Area. CWF-008 was extinguished at 0.2 ha and remains under investigation. CWF-009 is classified as Under Control at 17 ha and was caused by an incendiary device.

The Devil's Head Wildfire (CWF-156) from the 2020 wildfire season is classified as under control at 2420 ha. It is located in a remote area of the Don Getty Wildland Provincial Park. When appropriate, this wildfire will be scanned for any active areas and actioned accordingly.

Burned areas should be avoided as they present a safety hazard due to standing dead or damaged trees that can fall without warning.

Calgary Forest Area Wildfire Update - April 6, 2021  
Posted on Tue, Apr 06, 2021

## Burning in Waiparous

Did you know you cannot burn in Waiparous without a Burn Permit except in approved Fire Pits?

Joleen Molenaar is the Village Fire Guardian manages Fire Permits on behalf of the Summer Village. For more information, please refer to Section 6 of the Waiparous Fire Bylaw or contact the Village Office.

## NEW WILDFIRE APP!

Did you know Alberta Wildfire just launched a brand-new app to keep you up to date with the wildfire situation in the province? Download the new app today and get access to accurate, real-time information on wildfires in your area. You can also find information on fire advisories, restrictions and bans across the province and much more. Available for [Apple](#) and [Android](#).



## Fire Pits, Portable Receptacles & Fireplaces

### Inspection and Renewal in 2020

Current *Certificates of Continued Use* will be **expiring on October 31, 2021**. Inspections will occur starting mid-summer to determine if the certificate of continued use can be extended.

Check your firepit, receptacle or fireplace to see if there is any cracks or damage to the structure, if grass has crept into the apron area, if any branches have grown into the 2-metre clearance area or if there has been an accumulation of leaves, needles, or other combustible in or around the structure. If so, please address these issues this spring so that you may safely enjoy your recreational fire this summer and that you are able to re-certify your firepit, receptacle or fireplace.

If you are considering constructing a new fire pit or installing a portable fire receptacle or outdoor fireplace, please make sure it conforms with the bylaw specifications to be certified:



#### Acceptable Fire Pit:

- a minimum of 2 metres clearance, measured from the inside fire pit edge, from all trees (including overhanging branches, shrubs, and combustible structures).
- the base of the fire pit must be built on bare mineral soil or other non-combustible material with a minimum depth of 15 cm.
- the fire pit opening does not exceed 1 metre in diameter or height.
- the fire ring must be constructed of bricks, concrete blocks, heavy gauge metal, or other non-combustible materials acceptable to the Fire Guardian; and
- the fire pit must have a non-combustible apron surrounding the fire ring a minimum width of 61 cm.

#### Acceptable Fireplace:

- a minimum of 2 metres clearance, measured from the nearest fireplace edge, is maintained from buildings, property lines or other combustible material.
- the fireplace is constructed of materials, such as bricks or rocks, that are heat and flame resistant.
- the fireplace is equipped with a chimney that is not less than 2.5 metres in height when measured from the base of the fire burning area.
- the fireplace chimney and the fireplace vertical opening is equipped with a regulation screen designed to contain and reduce the hazards of airborne sparks.
- the base of the fire burning area is not less than .31 cm above the surrounding grade.
- the fire chamber does not exceed 1.25 metres in width, and is at least 40 cm but not more than 61 cm in depth; and
- the fireplace must have a non-combustible apron surrounding the fireplace a minimum width of 61 cm.

#### Acceptable Portable Fire Receptacle:

a Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certified or equivalent outdoor portable fire receptacle meeting the following specifications:

- a minimum of 2 metres clearance, measured from the outside edge of the receptacle, from all trees (including overhanging branches, shrubs, and combustible structures).
- the base of the receptacle must be built on bare mineral soil or other non-combustible material with a minimum depth of 15 cm.
- The receptacle must have a non-combustible apron surrounding the receptacle a minimum width of 61 cm; and
- The receptacle must have a fine mesh grate that completely covers the opening to the fire chamber and the flue, if there is one, is used while the receptacle is in use.

### **Safe Use of Recreational Fires**

**Fire is Fire and to fully enjoy your fire pit, safety should always be a top consideration.**

1. Before use, ensure you have a **VALID Certificate of Continued Use for your fire pit, outdoor fireplace, or portable fire receptacle**, issued by the Summer Village of Waiparous.
2. Spring clean around your fire pit / outdoor fireplace /portable receptacle. Sweep up and haul away twigs, cones and other flammable debris that may have accumulated over the winter. Trim back any branches and shrubs that are starting to encroach within 2 metres of the fire pit / outdoor fireplace /portable receptacle (measured from inside).
3. Always have a fire extinguisher handy and make sure it is in good working condition and not close to its expiration date. Know how to use a fire extinguisher.
4. Use safety gloves when handling a hot fire pit.

5. Keep a water supply nearby when there is a fire in your fire pit/fireplace/receptacle.
6. Start your fire small and only use the recommended fire starters. NEVER use gasoline to start a fire.
7. In a wood-burning fire pit never pile on wood too high because you don't want burning pellets to spill out.
8. The fire must be constantly attended by a competent person until the fire is extinguished. Never leave a fire unattended.
9. Use screens for protection from wind and to prevent sparks from flying out. Avoid using a fire pit when it is very windy.
10. Make sure to extinguish the fire COMPLETELY once you have finished using it. Use a fire extinguisher or enough water to let the hot coals or wood soak. Continue to pour water over the fire until there is no steam.
11. Cover with a lid if you have one after you have the fire out.
12. Do not store coals or wood in bags right way; use a metal ash bucket instead.

## SAFE CAMPFIRES



1  
Soak it

2  
Stir it

3  
Soak it again

## Alberta Fire Ban System

When checking for the level of fire activity allowed in your area, be mindful of the following:

- Fire Restriction: Restricts activities on public land.
- Fire Ban: Restricts activities on private and public land.

### NO RESTRICTION

Fire permits are required during fire season for any type of burning in the FPA, except campfires. Safe campfires are allowed in campgrounds and backcountry or random camping areas.

### FIRE ADVISORY

The fire danger rating has increased. Fire permits may be restricted. Safe campfires are allowed in campgrounds and backcountry or random camping areas, but this level is a warning they may be restricted if the situation does not improve.

### FIRE RESTRICTION

Safe campfires are allowed in fire rings in campgrounds only. No campfires (or other open fires) or charcoal briquettes are allowed in backcountry or random camping areas. Gas or propane stoves/barbeques and portable propane fire pits are allowed.

Fire permits may be suspended or cancelled, and no new fire permits will be issued. If the situation continues to worsen, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry will put on a fire ban.

### FIRE BAN

No campfires (or other open fires) are allowed in campgrounds or backcountry and random camping areas. This includes charcoal briquettes. Gas or propane stoves/barbeques and portable propane fire pits are allowed. All fire permits are suspended or cancelled, and no new fire permits will be issued.

### FOREST AREA CLOSURE

The fire danger has reached such extreme levels that portions of the forest are closed and no access is permitted for public safety concerns.