

## Subject: Making Your Home/Cottage FireSmart

### Introduction:

This lesson plan will assist fire service personnel to present information on how to protect rural or wildland/urban interface homes and cottages to groups such as cottage associations, homeowners and the public. It is intended to introduce the public to:

- The concept of protecting rural and forest homes and cottages from wildfires.
- Terminology used in protecting property from wildfires
- The identification of potential risks around a forest home or cottage
- The identification of potential mitigation techniques to reduce the risk of loss or damage to property from wildfires

### Learning Outcomes:

Participants will:

- Understand what is meant by wildland/urban interface or Intermix
- Identify why protecting property from the threat of wildfire is their own responsibility
- Identify ways to protect their forest homes and properties from wildfires.

Participants are expected to:

- Listen attentively
- Participate in group discussions
- Ask questions for clarification and understanding
- Answer instructor questions.

### Additional Resources:

- Background information from “Check Your Home Inside and Out” lesson plan
- [affm.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://affm.mnr.gov.on.ca)
- [www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca](http://www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca)
- [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)



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Key Points and Terms	Student Learning Activity	References and Resources	Trainer/Facilitator Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildland/Urban Interface</li> <li>• Forest fire behaviour terms               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fuel types</li> <li>○ Ladder fuels</li> <li>○ Ignition</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interface Priority Zones</li> <li>• Home survivability</li> <li>• Fire Risk Rating</li> <li>• Site Hazards               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trees</li> <li>○ Ladder fuels</li> <li>○ Ground cover</li> <li>○ Brush piles</li> <li>○ Fuel storage</li> <li>○ Ground slope</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Structural Hazards               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Roofing</li> <li>○ Foundation</li> <li>○ Exterior Walls</li> <li>○ Decks/Overhangs</li> <li>○ Windows</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen</li> <li>• Take notes</li> <li>• Ask questions</li> <li>• Observe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FireSmart Home Owner Manual</li> <li>• Videos (see additional resources)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FireSmart</li> <li>○ Preventing Home Ignitions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce yourself</li> <li>• If appropriate, ask participants how many of them have homes/camps/cottages located in or near a forested area</li> <li>• Explain fire behaviour, what forest fires need to grow, etc.</li> <li>• Ask for examples of hazards that would increase the fire “risk” of a property if a wildfire approached</li> <li>• Tell participants about fire risk ratings and what they mean</li> <li>• Discuss what may make a particular building high or low risk</li> <li>• List terms on flip chart</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read booklet</li> <li>• Listen</li> <li>• Take notes</li> <li>• Ask questions</li> <li>• Observe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FireSmart Home Owner manual.</li> <li>• Additional photocopies of assessment checklist</li> <li>• If not on location - Pictures of interface structure with hazards and a similar structure without hazards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute booklet and risk assessment sheet</li> <li>• Highlight key points in booklet, i.e. site selection, vegetation management</li> <li>• Demonstrate how to use a risk assessment sheet</li> <li>• For practical exercises there are 2 options:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If at a location with an actual building in the “interface” go outside and conduct an assessment of property either individually or as a group</li> <li>2. If not at a suitable location, show pictures of an interface structure and have participants conduct an assessment based on the pictures.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• When the assessment is complete compare ratings.</li> <li>• Discuss factors that increased the rating, didn’t affect the rating, etc.</li> <li>• Describe why certain factors affect the rating and others do not (see booklet)</li> <li>• Have participants list the ways they can reduce the fire risk rating of their own property and prepare an action plan that might get them started.</li> <li>• Discuss home and site evacuation plans</li> </ul>

