

■ Good Hands® Advice

Tips to help you be prepared and informed



wildfires

Approximately 8,000 wildfires occur each year in Canada, destroying roughly 2.5 million hectares of land; this is equivalent to ten times the size of Vancouver Island. Wildfires are uncontrolled flames in woodlands, brush or open fields. Being prepared will help protect you, your family and your home.

Prevention

- Prepare camp and grass fires carefully and place a firebreak around the perimeter of the area. Never leave a fire unattended.
- Do not burn campfires in windy conditions.
- Do not discard smoking materials from vehicles; use interior ashtrays.
- Lawn and farm equipment should have properly working spark arresters to prevent sparks from exiting through the exhaust pipes.

Be Prepared

- Make sure your home is insured and you have the proper coverage to protect it.
- Create an emergency preparedness plan and kit.
- Ensure all family members know what to do if their clothes catch on fire. Practise the *Stop, Drop and Roll* drill.
- Install smoke detectors on every floor of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on each level of your home.
- Cover attic and sub-floor vents with noncombustible screening (mesh size no greater than five millimetres).

Protect Your Home

- If a fire is approaching your home, close all windows.
- The most fire-resistant roofing materials are metal, asphalt and ULC treated shakes.
- Close in your eavestroughs and screen in your soffits. Left open or unscreened, they can serve as a place for airborne sparks and embers to land.
- The most fire-resistant materials for walls are stucco, metal, brick and concrete.
- The most fire-resistant glass is tempered glass. Double or thermal pane window construction provides moderate protection.
- Ensure your chimney is screened in with the appropriate approved spark arrestors.
- Keep grass mowed and watered, and remove any kind of vegetation since it is flammable. This includes trees, shrubs, deadfall and woodpiles.

For more information about wildfire prevention and preparedness, visit goodhandsadvice.ca, contact your local Allstate Insurance Agency or call 1-800-allstate.

The information in this sheet is from the following sources: ICLR.org, Getprepared.gc.ca, The Home Owners Fire Smart Manual, goodhandsadvice.ca

Good Hands® claims service available 24/7

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facts

- Homes that are located in or near a forested area are at the greatest risk of wildfire.
- Fires caused by lightning represent 45% of all fires, but because they occur in remote locations and often in clusters, they represent 81% of the total area burned.
- Human-caused fires represent 55% of all fires. They occur in more populated areas and are usually reported and extinguished quickly.
- Forest fires can spread through the crowns of trees at a rate of 15km/h.
- Wildfires increase in intensity when it is dry and winds are strong.
- There is a higher probability of wildfires during a drought.
- Aspen, poplar and birch have lower flammability rates than other tree species.
- Fires spread more rapidly uphill.

Be prepared. Be safe.

