

BE FIRE-WISE!

A Guide for Landowners

IDENTIFYING YOUR RISKS & HAZARDS

RISKS: Activities that cause fires to start

HAZARDS: flammable materials in which fires start

HAZARDS

Your home, outbuildings and extras such as decks, pergolas and fences are all elements that can become fuel for a wildfire given the right conditions.

- ◇ **Firebrands** can land on gutters, ignite leaves caught there and blow sparks into the roof space.
- ◇ **Flames** that come into contact with wood decks, doors, roof beams or combustible items kept next to the building can ignite the structure.
- ◇ **Radiant heat** can break windows or melt non-metallic coverings over windows, eaves or doors, allowing heat or firebrands to ignite curtains and the house interior.
- ◇ **Potential fuels** on your property include:
 - ⇒ **Firewood stacks** near the house
 - ⇒ **Dead leaves, pine needles etc.** in gutters, under decks or close to the house
 - ⇒ **Fire-loving plants in the 'ignition zone'** i.e. 10-30 m away from the home.
 - ⇒ **'Ladder fuels'** i.e. grasses leading up to shrubs or vines that can lead the fire up into larger bushes and trees that could then ignite your home.
- ◇ **The lay of the land**
 - ⇒ Homes on steep slopes or at the top of steep gullies or ravines are more vulnerable to wind-driven fire as these land formations accelerate wind flow and can concentrate heat!
 - ⇒ Homes on north facing slopes are at greater risk as these sun-facing slopes tend to be drier and more fire prone.

