



# FIRE SAFETY

**There are approximately 8,000 forest fires in Canada each year. Forest fires usually occur from May to September and can cause extensive damage and put lives in danger. Here are some tips to mitigate your risk.**

## **Before the fire:**

The best way to protect yourself and your family in case of a forest fire is to be prepared:

- Have an emergency plan and build or buy an emergency preparedness kit.
- Learn fire safety techniques and teach them to your family regularly. Make sure everyone is familiar with the technique "STOP, DROP, AND ROLL" in case clothing catches on fire.
- Move flammable items away from your home and create a fire break.
- Know your evacuation routes out of your community.
- Practice fire drills twice a year and make sure you have an escape plan.
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Test them every month and replace the batteries twice a year.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in an accessible location, on each floor.

If you see a fire approaching your home or community, call the local Public Safety Authorities or 911 if available. If it's safe and you have time before the fire arrives, follow these steps:

- Close all windows and doors in your house.
- Cover vents, windows, and other openings of the house with duct tape and/or pre-cut pieces of plywood to mitigate smoke entering the home.
- Park your car positioned forward in the driveway. Keep your car windows closed and have your valuables already packed in your car.
- Turn off propane or natural gas and electricity.
- Inside the house, move materials that light easily on fire such as curtains and furniture away from the windows.
- Check around the home and bring in what can easily catch fire.
- Stay tuned to your local radio station for up-to-date information on the fire, possible road closures and evacuations.
- Check on vulnerable family members, friends and neighbours (the elderly, ill, disabled) who may require special assistance.

## **What to do after a fire:**

- If you cannot stay in your home due to fire damage, contact your local housing office for help in finding temporary housing.
- If you have insurance, make sure you contact your insurance company,
- Check with local Public Safety to see if you are eligible for disaster financial assistance.

Before re-entering your home, make sure you are authorized to do so from Public Safety. If allowed to do so, make sure you protect yourself by dressing appropriately in personal protective equipment.