

Newfoundland and Labrador Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Program

The Newfoundland and Labrador Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Program is a community approach to wildfire resilience that helps identify and reduce wildfire risks.

The program supports local risk assessments, fuel management planning, and mitigation activities. It also strengthens community-level emergency preparedness by providing guidance to property owners to help them protect their homes from wildfires.

Communities (municipalities and Local Service Districts) are encouraged to apply for funding to develop a **Community Wildland Fire Resiliency Plan** and **Community-based Wildfire Prevention/Mitigation Projects**. These plans and projects will incorporate education, emergency planning, vegetation management, and other principles to implement wildfire prevention and mitigation projects at a community level.

Community Wildland Fire Resiliency Plan

A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan identifies and plans actions that reduce wildfire risks to community values, including life, property and critical infrastructure. Plans are designed to support a whole-of-society approach to wildfire risk reduction, focusing on practical actions and recommendations informed by local knowledge, expert assessment and active participation from residents, all levels of government, and the private sector.

Together, these contributors help identify meaningful opportunities to reduce wildfire risk and strengthen community resilience.

When developing a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan, consider:

- Forming a planning group consisting of partner organizations
- Developing a project charter
- Deciding on a risk assessment methodology
- Developing a communication and engagement plan or strategy
- Establishing a project timeline and review process
- Identifying who is doing the work, including third parties
- Determining how the plan will be finalized and endorsed
- Identifying a plan for community engagement to share project goals
- Seeking community input

- Validating the results or final plan

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans should include:

- Purpose of the plan
- Partners, stakeholders and other contributors
- Planning area description
- Risk or exposure assessment summary
- **Wildfire prevention and mitigation actions or recommendations** that incorporate each of the seven FireSmart disciplines as actions or recommendations:
 - Education
 - Emergency Planning
 - Vegetation Management
 - Legislation
 - Development
 - Interagency Cooperation
 - Cross-training

Examples of prevention and mitigation actions or recommendations:

- **Education:** Conduct an annual community meeting promoting FireSmart principles.
- **Emergency Planning:** Host annual tactical exercises to practice evacuations and identify vulnerabilities.
- **Vegetation Management:** Design a wildfire mitigation project to reduce fuel loads in high coniferous (evergreen) forests.
- **Legislation:** Adopt FireSmart building and landscaping requirements.
- **Development:** Assess community structures, and assign priority ranking, associated costs and support needs for each assessed structure.
- **Interagency Cooperation:** Incorporation of Search and Rescue in emergency plans to aid RNC/RCMP in community evacuations.
- **Cross Training:** Prioritize and coordinate training opportunities, such as the Incident Command System for local Fire Departments.

Community-based Wildfire Prevention/Mitigation Projects

A Community-based Wildfire Mitigation Project reduces and manages the risk of wildfire impacts on community values such as life, property, and critical infrastructure.

Examples of prevention and mitigation activities include:

- Fuel management
- Public education
- Community planning and policy tools

First-time applicants to the Newfoundland and Labrador Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Program are encouraged apply for funding to develop a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan before starting mitigation projects.

Communities with a completed Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan will be given priority when applying for a Community-based Wildfire Prevention/Mitigation Project (e.g., a fire break project).

Guidelines for Completing the Community Wildfire Resiliency Application

Community or local service district information: Enter the name of the legal entity, community or local service district applying for funding.

- If applying as a local service district, identify all individual communities within the local service district in the application email.

Primary contact Information: Enter the full name, position, email, and phone number of the authorized representative (staff or elected official).

Secondary contact Information: Provide the same details for an alternate authorized representative.

Sub-applicants: Indicate Yes/No and list any additional participating organizations, if applicable.

- If yes, please indicate the percentage of ownership of funds to be distributed to the sub-applicant

FireSmart Ambassador: Indicate whether your community has a FireSmart Ambassador.

- A FireSmart Ambassador is recommended to act as project lead.
- Provide name and email address of FireSmart Ambassador.
- FireSmart Ambassador training is available here: [FireSmart](#)

Project title: Provide a clear and descriptive project title that reflects project type.

- Example: ***Town Name*** Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan or ***Town Name*** Wildfire Mitigation Project.

Project Information: Confirm project start, critical milestones (benchmarks) and end dates.

- Identify project type, including:
 - o **Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan**
 - o **Community-based Wildfire Prevention/Mitigation Project**

Funding request: Contact firesmart@gov.nl.ca for guidance on eligible amounts.

- Enter total project budget and requested grant amount.

Other funding: List any additional funding sources and amounts received or requested.

Project summary: Provide a summary of the proposed activities. If additional space is required, attach a separate page.

- **Note:** A **Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan** must incorporate or address the seven FireSmart disciplines:
 - o Education
 - o Emergency Planning
 - o Vegetation Management
 - o Legislation
 - o Development
 - o Interagency Cooperation
 - o Cross-training
- This summary section should explain how the community wishes to incorporate each of these disciplines into its approach.

Plans should be:

- Flexible, designed to meet the individual needs of the community.

- Developed in collaboration with all levels of government, stakeholders, the private sector, and with the public in mind.
- Accessible, written in plain language for a broad audience, serving as both an educational tool and a guide for planning and operations.

The summary of a **Community Wildfire Prevention/Mitigation Project** application must include:

- A description of proposed prevention or mitigation activities.
- Project goals.
- Results of any wildfire hazard or risk assessment.
- An attached PDF map at appropriate scale, including the area of interest boundary.
- A description of land ownership (e.g., private, crown, community).

Progress to date: If funded previously or currently funded, provide a summary of progress to date. If more room is required, attach an additional page.

Certification: Confirm information accuracy, jurisdictional approval, and audit acknowledgment.

- Provide name of person submitting the form.

Application submission: Submit the completed form to FireSmart@gov.nl.ca.

Disclaimer: A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan is a proactive tool for managing wildfire risk and does not replace a community's emergency preparedness plan.