



# FireSmart Resources

Nature and Outdoor Tourism Ontario (NOTO)

April.13.2022

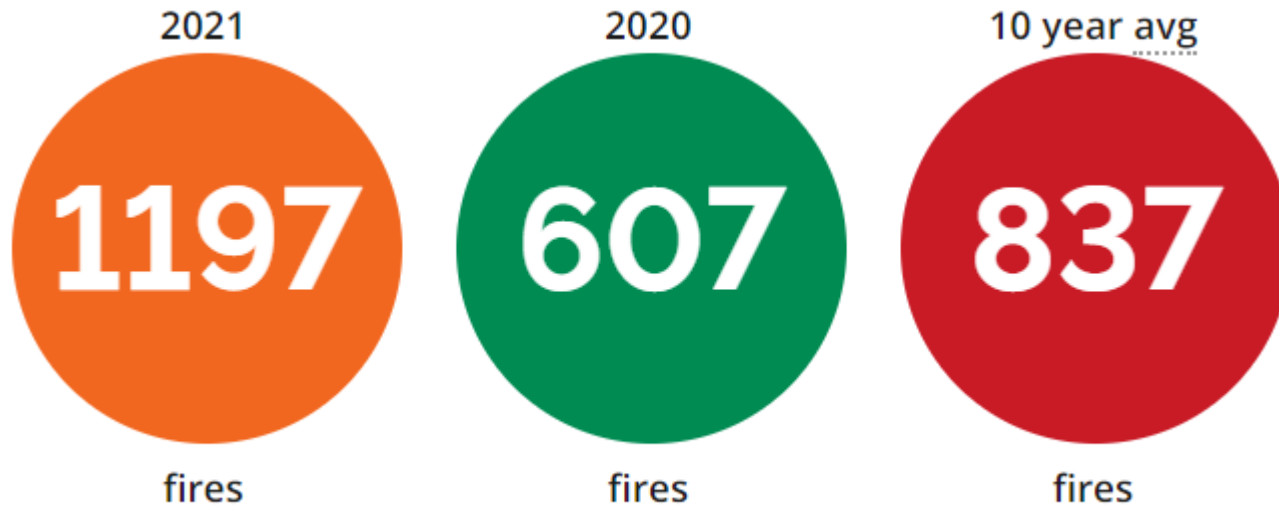
*Jaime Seeley – Fire Advisor*

# 2021 Fire Season

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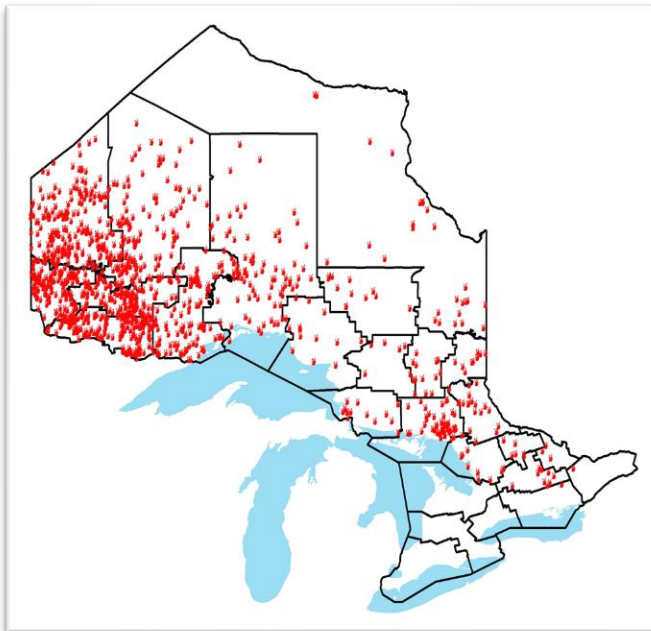
## *Snapshot*

- Very active season, provincially and nationally
- Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) from June 3th – Sept 1st
- Emergency Area Orders (EAO) & Implementation Orders (IO)



# 2021 Fires by the Numbers

	2021	2020	10 Year Average
Fires to date	1 198*	603	824
Hectares to date	793 018	15 479	162 817

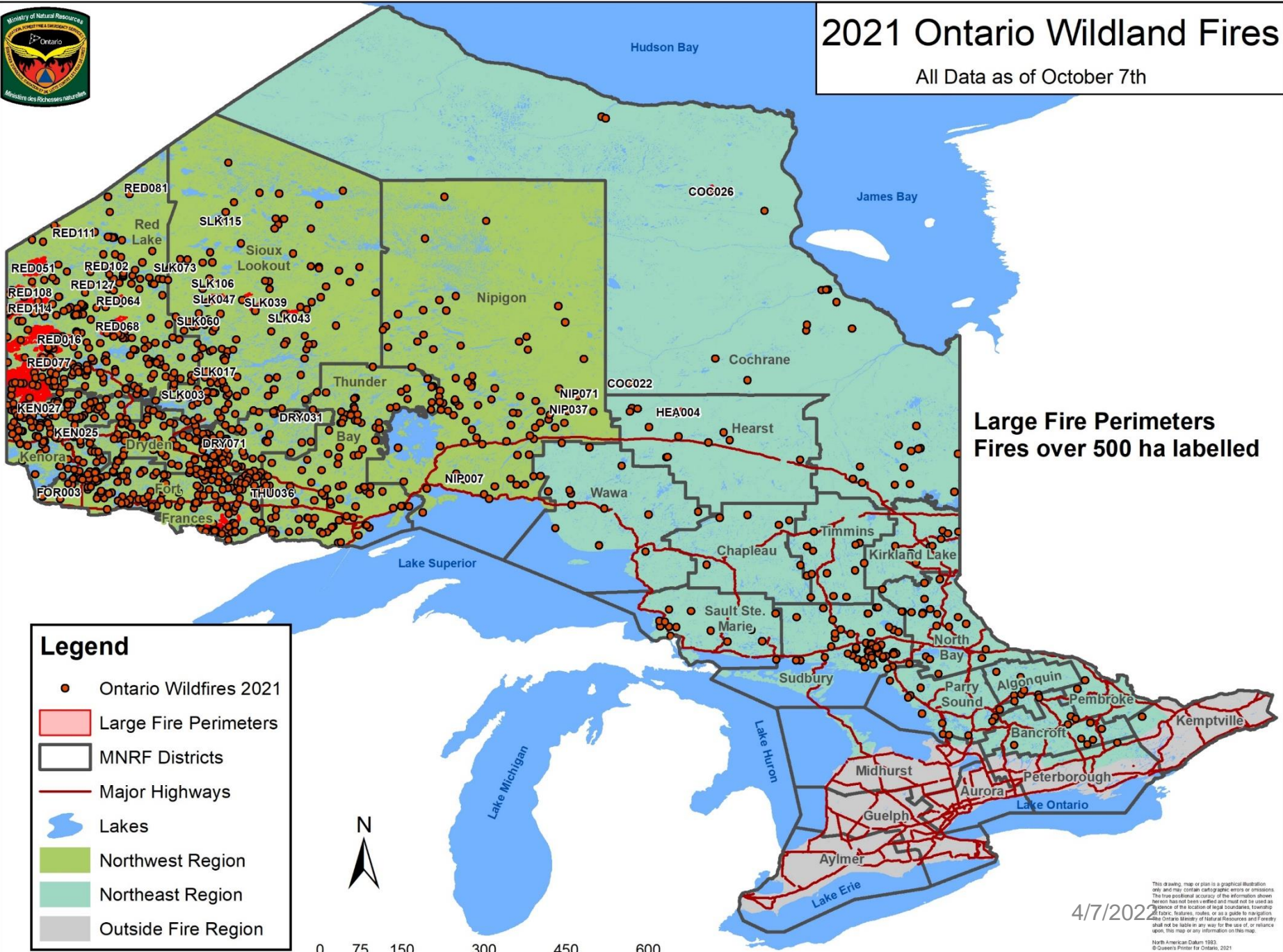


Month	# of Fires
March	9
April	26
May	108
June	317
July	565
August	150
September	20



# 2021 Ontario Wildland Fires

All Data as of October 7th



**Large Fire Perimeters  
Fires over 500 ha labelled**

## Legend

- Ontario Wildfires 2021
- Large Fire Perimeters
- MNR Districts
- Major Highways
- Lakes
- Northwest Region
- Northeast Region
- Outside Fire Region



0 75 150 300 450 600 Kilometers

4/7/2022

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North American Datum 1983.  
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Sources: Land Information Ontario, Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services, and data provided by other Ministries.



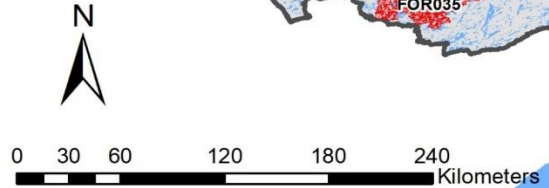
# 2021 Ontario Fires of Note

All Data as of October 7th



## Legend

-  Fires of Note
-  MNR Districts
-  Lakes



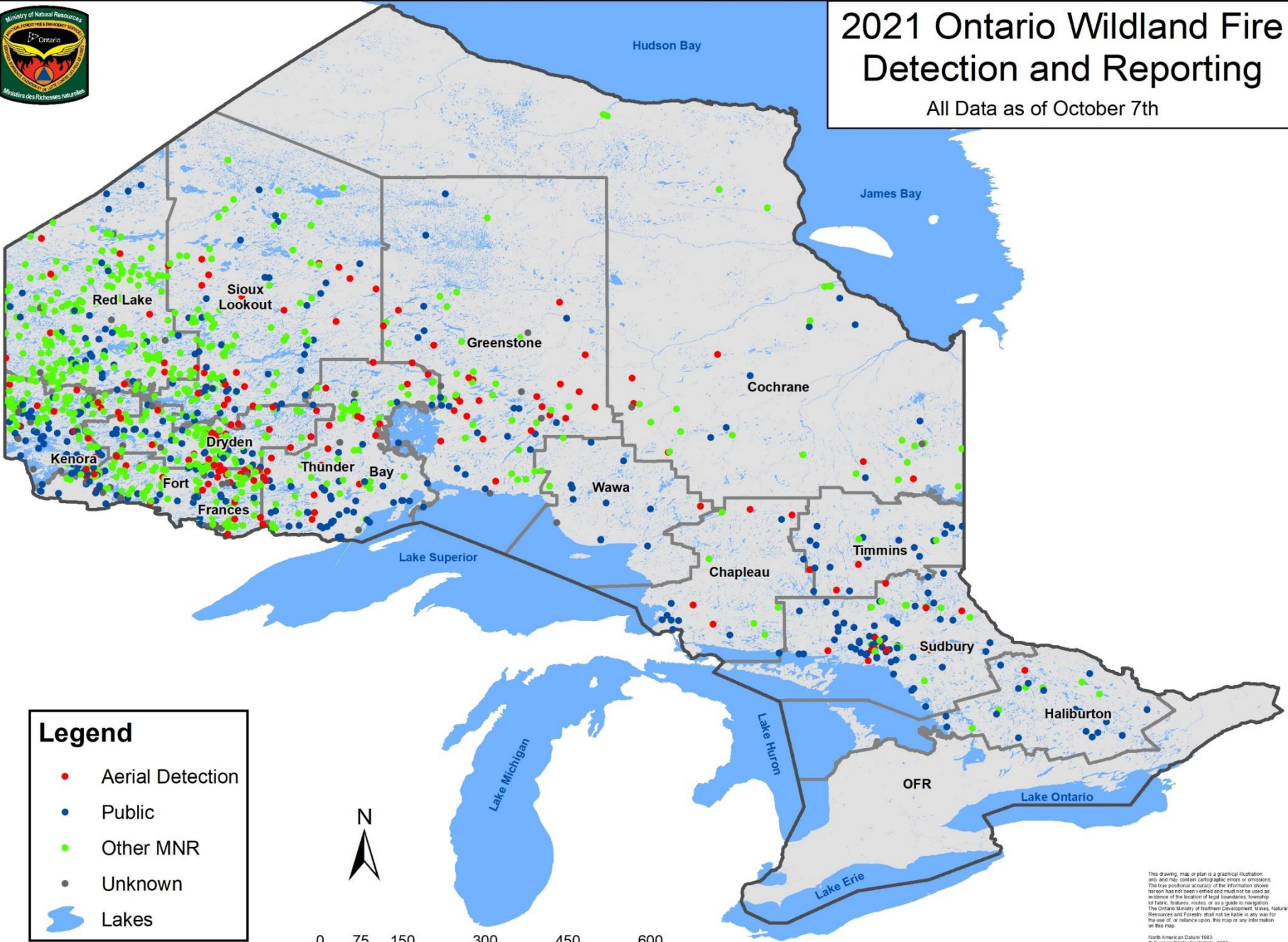
**Fires of Note**  
**Fires over 10,000 ha labelled**

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# 2021 Ontario Wildland Fire Detection and Reporting

All Data as of October 7th



## Legend

- Aerial Detection
- Public
- Other MNR
- Unknown
- Lakes



0 75 150 300 450 600 Kilometers

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# 2021 Fire Season

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## *Evacuations*

Number of evacuations due to Wildland Fire/Smoke

- 8 Communities were evacuated
- Approximately 3400 evacuees were evacuated

Which communities:

- Naicatchewenin FN
- Deer Lake FN
- Poplar Hill FN
- Pikangikum FN
- Municipality of Red Lake
- Cat Lake FN
- North Spirit Lake FN
- Wabaseemoong FN

# 2022 Weather Outlook

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- Existing snowpack across the Province is generally higher than normal – except parts of the Ottawa Valley
- A gradual start to spring is expected with a chance for more frequent cold outbreaks and mix precipitation events
- It's still too early to have high confidence in the summer forecast – June warmer & drier

**Warmer and drier(?) summer on the way!**



# FireSmart Program

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## Poll:

How many people have heard of FireSmart?



# FireSmart Disciplines

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1. Vegetation Management
2. Development Considerations
3. Public Education
4. Legislation
5. Inter-agency Cooperation
6. Cross Training
7. Emergency Planning



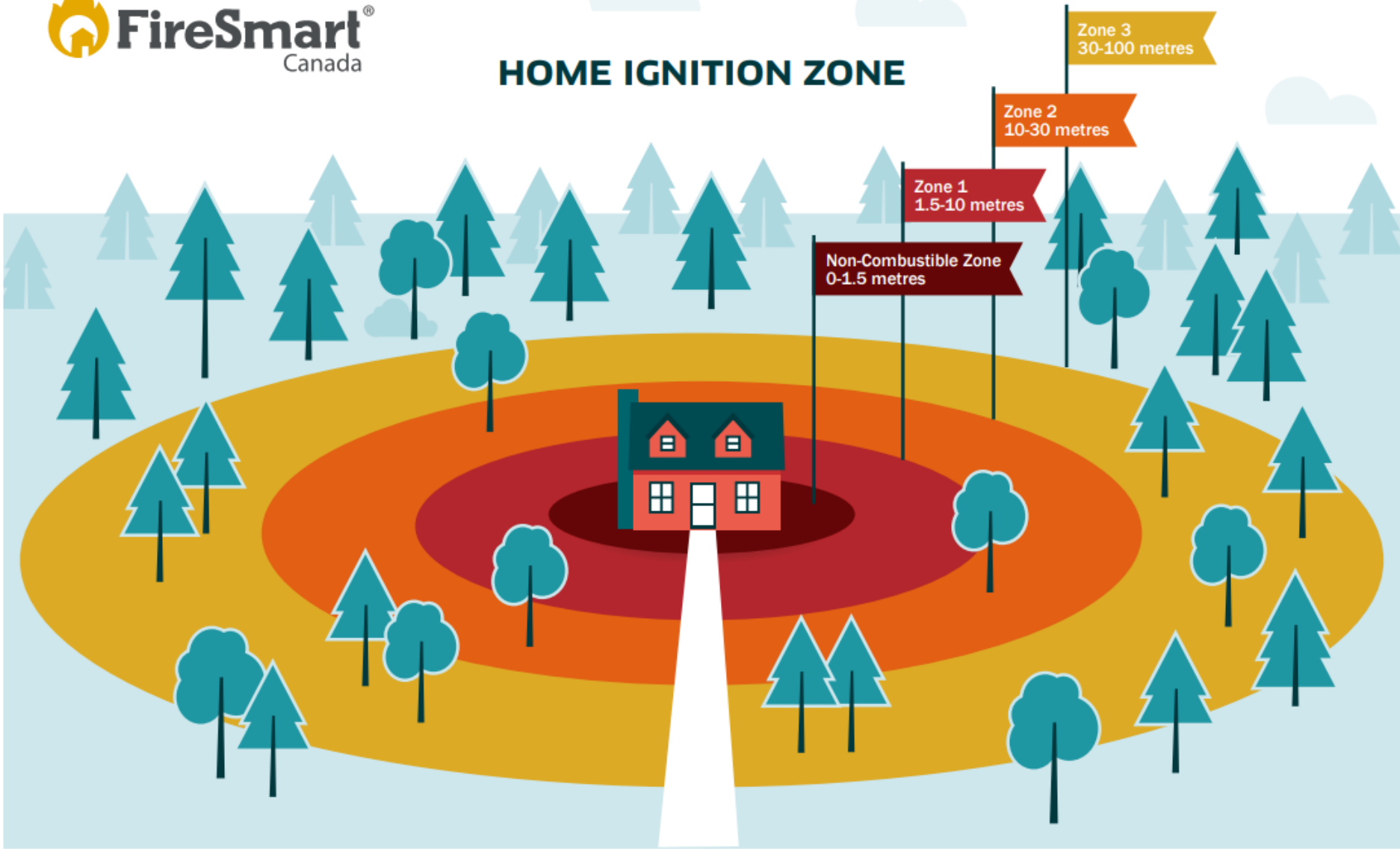
# FireSmart Resources

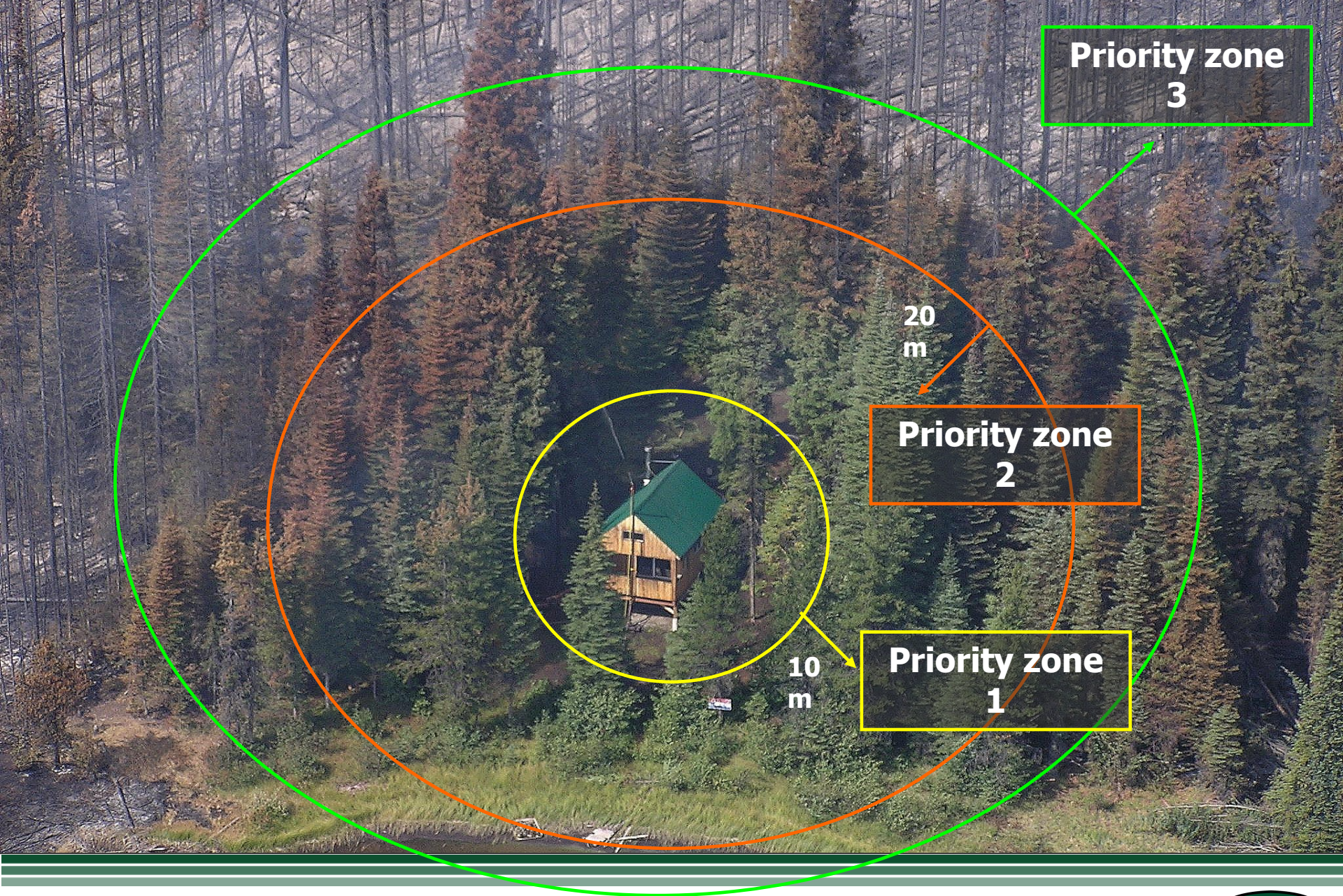
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- Homeowner's Manual
- Homeowner's Assessment
- WUI - all vegetation, buildings, fences, decks, bridges, power lines, and vehicles, boats, firewood are potential fuel for the fire
- Resources available at [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca)



## HOME IGNITION ZONE





**Priority zone  
3**

**Priority zone  
2**

**Priority zone  
1**

20  
m

10  
m

**INTERFACE PRIORITY ZONE MANAGEMENT = DEFENSIBLE SPACE**



# FireSmart Mitigation Solutions

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## Reduce hazard at:

- Property level
- Community level

## FireSmart concepts:

- Vegetation Management
- Structural Changes
- Infrastructure Modifications



# Vegetation Management

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**VEGETATION = FUEL**

3 different approaches:

- Fuel removal
- Fuel reduction
- Fuel conversion



# FireSmart Recommendations – PZ1



- **Fuel removal** - removing flammable vegetation
- **Species conversion** - convert to less fire prone tree, shrub and plant species



# Vegetation Management – Priority Zone 1

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## Fuel Conversion

- Replace highly flammable species with low-fuel volume species
  - Highly flammable species can include:
    - Cedar
    - Juniper
    - Immature and mature spruce
    - Immature and mature pine
  - Low-fuel volume species can include:
    - Poplar
    - Birch
    - Maple
- Low-fuel volume species = lower burn intensity & decrease rate of fire spread



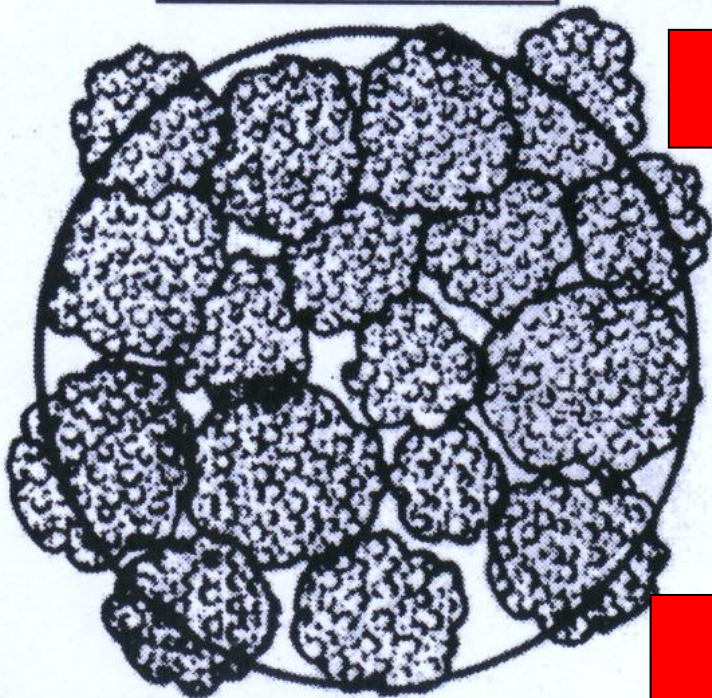


# Vegetation Management – PZ2

## FireSmart Recommendations:

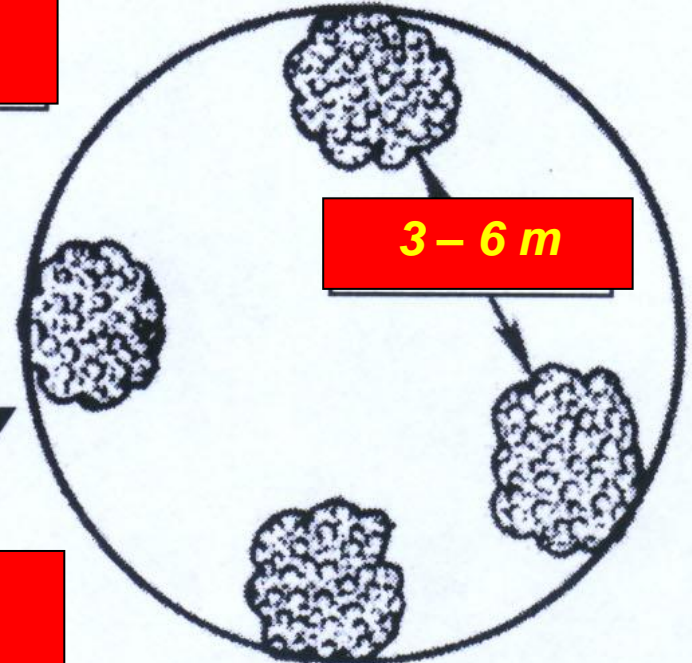
- Thinning of forest canopy to reduce fire intensity & spread
  - Removing flammable species
  - Increase spacing between crowns
  - Remove concentrations of over-mature, dead and dying trees

**Before Thinning**



**High Density**

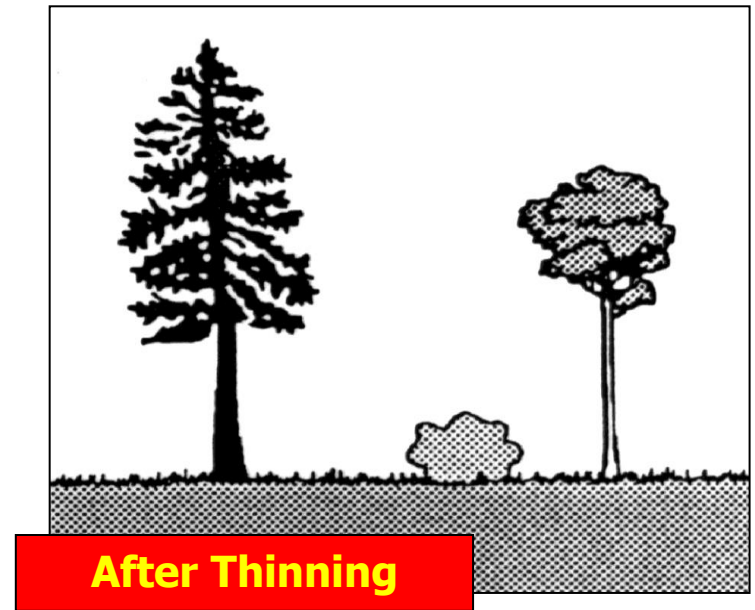
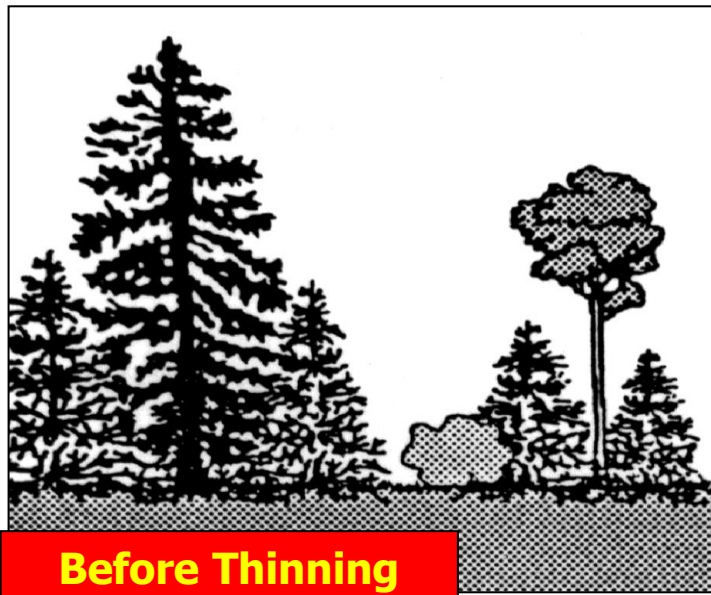
**After Thinning**



**3 – 6 m**

**Low Density <40%**

# Vegetation Management – Priority Zone 2



FireSmart Recommendations:

- Understory thinning to reduce probability of surface fires climbing into the forest canopy
  - Removal of immature understory trees and vegetation

# Fuels Management

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BEFORE



AFTER

**Reduce fire intensities** near values

# Structural Considerations

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## FireSmart Strategies:

- Roofing modifications
- Exterior siding
- Window and door glazing
- Eaves, vents, and openings
- Balconies, decks, and porches



**PRIMARY CAUSE OF STRUCTURE LOSS  
IN THE INTERFACE IS ROOFS  
CATCHING FIRE BECAUSE OF FIRE  
BRANDS & FLAMING DEBRIS LANDING  
ON COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL**



**BEST**

**CEMENT**

**ASPHALT**

**METAL**

**RATED SHAKE**



**REMOVE COMBUSTIBLE  
DEBRIS & OVERHANGING  
BRANCHES**



# Fire Protection Planning

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## Water supply

- Values protection strategy

## Emergency access

- Roads
- Bridges
- Driveways & turn-arounds
- Signage

## Hazardous Utilities

- Electricity
- Propane/Gas





# FireSmart and Value Protection



## Key Considerations

- Crew Safety
- Resource Availability
- Anticipated Fire Spread
- Time Frame
- Structure Triage
- Access

# Public / Client Safety

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## As a Tourism Operator...



Do you have emergency communications with your clients ?

Do they know what to do if there is a fire ?

Are they in a safe location?

Are you following the advice of on site NDMNRF staff ?

**Is your property FireSmart?**

# Protect Your Investment

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How much risk are you willing to accept ?

What can you do?

- Understand the hazards and mitigate them using FireSmart recommended strategies
- Develop a plan to deal with wildland fire emergencies

***Be FireSmart***

# FireSmart Tips for Your Home

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- Remove all combustible material (twigs, dry grass, logs and leaves) within 10 metres of a structure
- Keep your propane tanks clear of vegetation and debris
- Keep your roof and rain gutters free of flammable leaves and pine needles
- Keep all firewood at least 10m from all structures
- Fire pits should be kept away from trees and overhanging branches
- Have firefighting tools readily available

# Thank You!

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## Questions?

[www.ontario.ca/firesmart](http://www.ontario.ca/firesmart)

[www.ontario.ca/forestfires](http://www.ontario.ca/forestfires)