

Rural Municipality of
Corman Park



**FIRE
SAFETY**

***QUICK
REFERENCE
GUIDE***

Rural Municipality of
Corman Park

FARM SITE FIRE SAFETY

PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY

- Keep your property and buildings tidy, reduce garbage and clutter
- Maintain grass to 10cm in height within 10m of any structure
- Maintain (cut) vegetation and trees under and beside power lines
- Cut grass in ditches to 10cm in height or down to the soil



- Create a fuel break between ditches and structures
- Turn off electric fences during high fire hazard conditions
- Place fuel tanks, wood piles, and combustibles at least 10m from any structure

- Ensure your blue rural address sign is clearly visible from the road
- Know your legal land description for your farm site and building/operating sites
- Know where emergency services can access your farm site and other building/operating sites



- Ensure emergency vehicles can access your farm site and other building/operating sites
- Clearly mark water sources for emergency use
- Make sure emergency vehicles can easily access water sources

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FIRESMART YOUR PROPERTY

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY RISK?

FireSmart's Home Ignition Zone is a good way to start reducing the risk from potential grassfire damages.



NON-COMBUSTIBLE ZONE (0 to 1.5 M)

- Maintain a 1.5 m non-combustible surface around each building and attached structures
- Use rocks, concrete or non-flammable materials for ground cover
- Remove all flammable materials (leaves, deadfall, etc.)
- Avoid woody shrubs, trees and firewood in this area

PRIORITY ZONE 1 (1.5 to 10 M)

- This is a fire-resistant area
- Plant low-density fire-resistant plants and trees
- Use rock instead of mulch/bark for filling in tree beds
- Keep grass maintained to 10 cm in height
- Enclose deck or place gravel underneath to create a fire-resistant area
- Don't place burn barrels, fire pits, or fuel storage in this area
- Create a break between wood fences and structures with metal or non-combustible materials

FIRESMART YOUR PROPERTY

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY RISK?

FireSmart's Home Ignition Zone is a good way to start reducing the risk from potential grassfire damages.

PRIORITY ZONE 2 (10 to 30 M)

- Limb all evergreen trees up to 2 m with a crown spacing of 3 m
- Keep all grass maintained to 10 cm in height
- Burn barrels and fire pits need to adhere to fire services standards
- Remove all deadfall and debris from this area

PRIORITY ZONE 3 (30 to 1000 M)

- Fire breaks are put in this zone
- Thin and prune all shelter belts
- Keep grass maintained to 10 cm height
- Maintain and cut ditches to 10 cm height

- Most rural properties have multiple buildings
- Prioritize the most important structures
- Structures may have zones that overlap



GRASSFIRE SAFETY FACTS

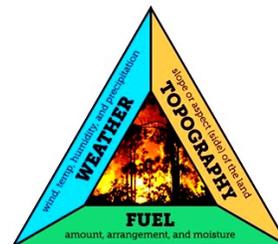
WHAT IS A GRASSFIRE?

- Grass is a fine vegetation type – fire burns through it faster and starts easier than heavy fuels
- Grassfires can start quickly and spread rapidly – at times traveling more than 10 km/hr
- Grassfires generate enormous amounts of heat – the taller and drier the grass, the more intense fire

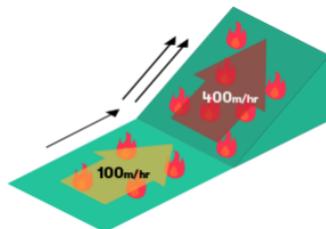


WHAT FACTORS AFFECT GRASSFIRES?

- The Fire Behavior Triangle describes how fuel ignites, flame develops and fire spreads
- Grassfires are more likely when there are the right conditions:
 - Weather – hot, dry, windy
 - Topography – slope or coulee
 - Fuel – lots of cured material

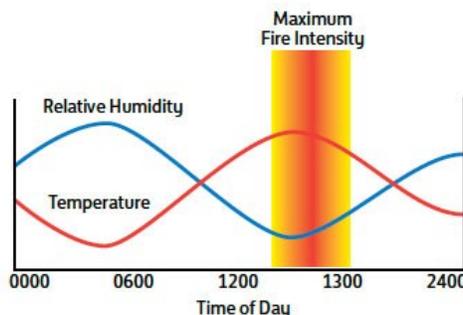


Fire Behavior Triangle



- Grassfires move faster on slopes than on flat ground
- Slopes increase wind speed – increasing fire rate of speed

- Extreme fire hazard conditions (crossover conditions) exist when **ambient relative humidity** is less and the **ambient air temperature**
- Crossover is an indicator of extreme burning conditions and extreme grassfire risk



GRASSFIRE SAFETY FACTS

GRASS CURING RATES AND GRASSFIRES

- Grass curing is the process of grasses dying and drying
- The browner a grass, the more cured it is
- The more cured a grass is, the more intensely it will burn and the faster the fire will spread
- Grasses respond quickly to changes in air moisture – they absorb moisture from damp air overnight and lose moisture very quickly in extreme conditions
- Cured grasses can be ready to burn very early in the day



0% CURED



50% CURED



100% CURED

MATTED VS. STANDING GRASS

- Grasses that are matted versus grasses that are standing, act differently in grassfire scenarios
- Generally, matted grasses burn slower than standing grasses



MATTED GRASS

- Common in the early spring
- Burns slower (less surface area)

STANDING GRASS

- Common in late summer/fall
- Burns faster (more surface area)

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EQUIPMENT FIRE SAFETY

KNOW THE CONDITIONS

- What are and how dry are fuels?
- What are the current/forecasted weather conditions?
 - Humidity
 - Temperature
 - Wind
- Is there a fire ban/restriction in place?



KNOW THE RISKS

- Fires start from material collecting on hot engine components
- Fires start from sparks & rock strikes
- Fire start from component failures
- Extreme fires are more likely during extreme conditions: high temps, low relative humidity, high winds

FARM EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

- Minimize equipment activity during high fire hazard conditions (hot, dry, windy, low relative humidity)
- If equipment must be used in high fire hazard conditions, try to work outside of peak hazard times
- Maintain your equipment in clean and good working condition
- Park vehicles in areas with no combustible materials
- Carry a fully functioning extinguisher, firefighting tool, and water on every piece of equipment
- Let equipment cool off before leaving it or bringing into a building
- Never leave running equipment unattended
- Carry a cell phone (or radio) and have emergency contacts programmed in it
- Know where you are (legal land description), potential water sources and field access points for emergency services
- Have an emergency response plan in case of equipment fire

FARM ANIMAL FIRE SAFETY

PLAN AHEAD

- If you have farm animals or livestock, you should make animal emergency plans
- Practice your plans before you need them
- Know when you need to make a decision, moving farm animals and livestock takes time and equipment



KEEP ON PROPERTY

1

- Maintain a fuel-reduced area (less than 10 cm height) to move animals to with a continuous and maintained firebreak around it
- Keep the fuel-reduced area as wet as possible
- Ensure all animals are outside of structures
- Keep enough feed and water in the area in case you evacuate without the animals

2

REMOVE FROM PROPERTY

- If you have time – animals in danger means you are in danger
- Know what you are moving – keep a current inventory
- Evacuate to a planned site outside the danger area
- Keep hauling/transporting equipment in working order, fueled, and ready to go

3

CUT THEM LOOSE

- You won't have a lot of time – make sure your plan reflects this
- Know what you are cutting loose – keep a current inventory and make sure animals are identified
- Know where the farm animals and livestock are coming from (legal land description)
- Cut fences to give animals and livestock a chance to escape the fire
- Consider fire insurance for your farm

FEED STORAGE & FIRE SAFETY

WHAT CAUSES BALE FIRES?

- Bale fires happen in all kinds of baled feed – new or old, hay or green-feed, stored inside or outside.
- Bale fires occur when bales have excessive moisture (above 20%). This moisture allows respiration to continue, creating excess heat and bacteria growth.
- With enough bacteria activity and oxygen heat is created to cause spontaneous combustion.



HOW CAN I PREVENT A BALE FIRE?

1. Make sure you are baling at moisture levels 15% or less
2. Check your moisture levels throughout the day while baling
3. Check internal temperature of bales (less than 54°C)
4. If you are purchasing feed, know the history of the bales and check internal temperature regularly
5. Store the bales away from major roadways and other areas with easy public access
6. Store your bales away from power lines and other potential ignition sources
7. Store your bales in multiple locations with smaller quantities at each location
8. Keep the ground around your bale storage area well maintained with reduced (under 10 cm height) or no combustible materials
9. Consider fire insurance for your feed stores



FIREBREAKS & FIRE SAFETY

WHAT IS A FIREBREAK?

- Firebreaks are strips of bare soil or fire retarding vegetation meant to stop or control fire.
- It may be constructed before or during a fire for the sole purpose of controlling the fire.
- Firebreaks facilitate access to a fire and can slow or stop a fire.
- It will improve access and visual quality.
- It reduces the hazards and intensity of wildfires



HOW DO I MAKE A FIREBREAK?

1. When possible take advantage of natural or manmade barriers such as roads, rivers, ponds, etc.
2. Clear debris to bare soil to provide a continuous barrier between your farm or building site and a potential encroaching grassfire
3. Make sure the firebreaks are of an adequate width. Usually 10ft. wide strip will stop creeping, ground fires
4. Use a disc or cultivator to make your firebreak. Be sure to cut grass or vegetation down to 10 cm and take 2 passes (opposite directions)
5. If using a road as a firebreak, ensure the road does not have vegetation or grass on it
6. Burnt firebreaks can be effective but come at a higher risk of out-of-control fires. Burnt firebreaks are only a temporary measure as grass will grow back.
7. Maintain your firebreak down to mineral soil – you need to ensure it remains vegetation free throughout the fire hazard period
8. If a slope is present, increase the width of your firebreak
9. Firebreaks may be temporary or permanent and can be fire-resistant vegetation, non-flammable materials, bare ground, or a combination of these

FUEL BREAKS & FIRE SAFETY

WHAT IS A FUEL BREAK?

- Fuel breaks are strips or blocks of vegetation that have been altered to slow or control a fire.
- Unlike firebreaks, fuel breaks may still burn.
- The key to remember is that these areas can slow the spread of a fire because they are managed to provide far less fuels to carry the flames.
- It supplies greater safety to fire fighters by creating a defensible area.

HOW DO I MAKE A FUEL BREAK?

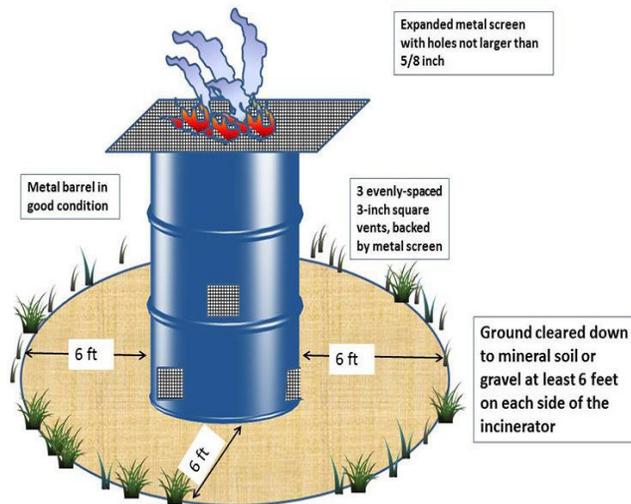
1. Reduce the fuel volume, break up the fuel continuity and eliminate the fuel chain between structures and surrounding vegetation
2. If trees are involved, space the crowns to allow heat to escape. Prune dead lower limbs on larger trees and remove accumulations under them. Pruning also improves visibility around your home and helps tree growth. Also, interrupt any connection between the ground and the possible for a fire to “step-up” into the crowns. Adequately dispose of any debris created from installing this practice.
3. When grasses are involved, control can be by mowing, grazing or prescribed burning. Planting cool-season grasses can expand the effectiveness of a fuel break, but will need to be treated when dead and dried. Perennial grasses should be mowed to a 3” height.
4. Complete control or removal of all vegetation is not necessary as long as the continuity of the fuels is broken.



BURNING SAFETY

BURN BARREL CHECKLIST

- Never burn if there is a fire ban or restriction
- Place your burn barrels at least 10 m away from any structure
- Have a 3 m radius of non-combustible materials and secure the barrel on all sides
- Have a metal grate on top with 7-16 mm mesh spacing
- Have your water source/tools/fire extinguisher ready
- Don't burn if winds exceed 10 km/hr
- Never leave any fire unattended



BURN PIT CHECKLIST

- Never burn if there is a fire ban or restriction
- Have a 3 m radius of mineralized soil with no combustible materials surrounding your pit
- Get a controlled burn notification and follow the conditions
- Have your water source/tools/fire extinguisher ready
- Don't burn if winds exceed 10 km/hr





BACKYARD FIRE SAFETY

FIRE PIT REGULATIONS

Local authorities, as well as home owners associations, may have regulations in place regarding the type of fire pit allowed, it's size, location, hours of use etc. It is important to check with your local authorities before going ahead with a fire pit.



WHERE TO LOCATE YOUR FIRE PIT

- Recreational fire pits should be located a min of 25 ft from buildings and other combustible structures or materials such as sheds, fences, decking, shrubs, trees, etc. This can reduce to 15 ft for approved portable outdoor pits, depending on local code. There also may also be a minimum vertical clearance requirement of up to 21 ft for overhead branches.
- Should not be located within 10 ft of property lines, depending on local code.
- Do not locate under overhead power lines or over underground utilities.
- Portable fire pits should be placed somewhere level and stable.

BACKYARD FIRE SAFETY

FIRE PIT CONSTRUCTION

- Fire-pits should have enclosed sides (min 6-12 inches high) made of non-combustible materials such as brick, stone or heavy gauge metal.
- In ground fire pits should be lined using non-combustible material such as bricks and mortar or a heavy gauge steel ring. The base should be gravel or sand to a depth of 10 inches.
- Unless on a rock outcrop, a 10 inch base of material such as gravel or sand, should be placed under the fire pit preventing the fire from direct contact with the earth.
- The fire pit should be encircled by a border of sand, gravel, paving or other non-combustible material. Up to 12 feet, depending on local code.
- Maximum dimensions of the fuel area (interior fire pit dimensions) is 3 ft in diameter and 2 ft high. Fire pits with a fuel area larger than this are no longer considered “recreational”.

BACKYARD FIRE CHECKLIST

- Never have a fire if there is a fire ban or restriction.
- Burn clean and dry wood – not garbage.
- Be ready to put out the fire – have a water hose, shovel and other tools on hand.
- Never leave any fire unattended.

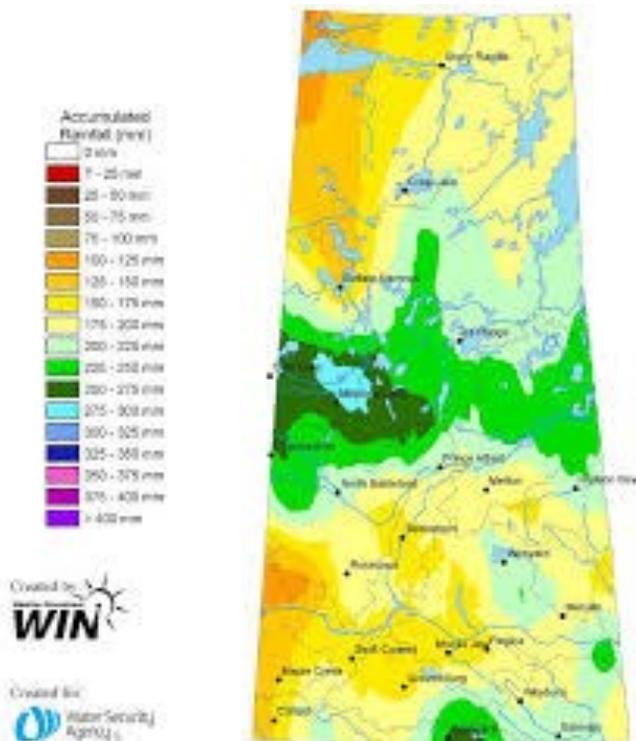


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GRASSFIRES & WEATHER

MONITOR YOUR WEATHER CONDITIONS

- Current and forecasted weather conditions play a major factor in grassfire risks
- Keep informed of the current and forecasted weather conditions at https://weather.gc.ca/forecast/canada/index_e.html?id=SK
- Extreme weather conditions are usually accompanied with fire restrictions and bans.
- The more extreme the weather conditions, the more likely a fire will occur and the more dangerous it could be
- Always check www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildfire-in-saskatchewan for current fire restrictions and bans in your area





FIRE SERVICES

FIRE SERVICES

The City of Saskatoon Fire and Protection Services respond to areas to the south and east R.M. boundaries as well as north to Penner/Pasture Road and west to Range Road 3070. Through the North Corman Fire Chiefs' Association the Towns of Martensville, Warman, Osler, Dalmeny and Langham protect the remaining portion of the Municipality. In addition, mutual aid agreements are in place for the Town of Asquith and other departments to respond when required.

URBAN FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Langham Fire Department: 306-283-4842

Martensville Fire Department: 306-934-5822

Osler Fire Department: 306-239-2155

Warman Fire Department: 306-931-3158

Dalmeny Fire Department: 306-254-2725

FIRE INSPECTIONS

For fire inspection information, contact the **RM office at 306-242-9303**. Fires that happen at home are devastating. It is important to understand and follow basic fire safety precautions. Many of these fires can be prevented if proper steps are taken to make your home more fire resistant.

NOTE:

The R.M. of Corman Park wishes to remind the residents of Corman Park about the importance of fire prevention. Property owners are responsible for paying the cost of fire suppression on their property. This is the additional cost of the fire trucks and materials used to fight the fire.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY (Ambulance/Fire/Police): 911

Corman Park Police Services: 306-242-8808

Warman RCMP (West of river): 306-975-1670

Saskatoon RCMP (East of river): 306-975-5173

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Dalmeny Fire Department: 306-254-2725

Reporting a Controlled Burn: 306-404-4911

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