



Wild/Grass Fire Preparation



January 2011

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The information in this booklet — intended for use by individuals should their home be threatened by a grass/wild fire situation — represents general tips for consideration and is provided to help residents of the R.M. be better prepared to deal with the perils of a grass/wild fire. Responsibility for interpretation of the contents of this booklet rests with the user. This information is provided solely for the user's information and, while thought to be accurate, is provided strictly as is and without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The Rural Municipality of Corman Park hereby disclaims any liability or responsibility for any injury or damage resulting from the use, directly or indirectly, of the information contained herein.

WILD FIRES

Fires are a natural hazard in any forested and grassland region in Canada. The regions with the highest wildfire occurrence are British Columbia, and the Boreal forest zones of Ontario, Quebec, the **Prairie** Provinces, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Grass/Wild Fire

A grass fire differs from other fires by its extensive size, the speed at which it can spread out from its original source, its potential to change direction unexpectedly and its ability to jump gaps such as roads, rivers and fire breaks. Windblown grass fires can spread at speeds up to 8.5 kilometres per hour.

Wildfire Facts

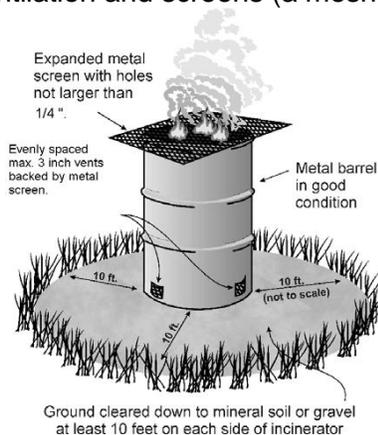
Wildland forest fires are capable of spreading at an astonishing rate. Crowning forest fires often spread at up to 5.5 kilometres per hour, with spotting as far as 2 kilometres ahead.

- Approximately 8,000 wildfires occur each year in Canada.
- The average area burned in Canada is 2.5 million ha/year.
- Fires caused by lightning represent 45% of all fires, but because they occur in remote locations and often in clusters, they represent 81% of total area burned.
- Human-caused fires represent 55% of all fires. They occur in more populated areas and are usually reported and extinguished quickly.

****Fire fighters are most successful when wildfires are discovered and reported as soon as possible. The Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management ministry asks the public to report **any** wildland fires they observe to 1-800-667-9660.****

DO NOT BE THE CAUSE OF A WILD FIRE

- Chimneys should be constructed to meet current building code requirements and should have approved spark arrestors
- Burn barrels/Fire pits should be located well away (at least three metres [10 feet] from logs, stumps, etc.) from other combustible items and (at least 15 metres from flammable buildings, etc.) from buildings
 - Should have proper ventilation and screens (a mesh size 8 mm/1/4 inch wide)



- Should be wired to metal stakes to even them from being blown or tipped over
- Surrounded by a metre-wide mineral soil strip with all leaves, twigs and other flammable materials removed
- Should never be left burning unattended
- Fire pits should be less than 1 metre in width
- Vegetation should be cleared well back from power lines, propane tanks and other fuel supplies.
- Should have shovel/rakes/axes/garden hoses/sprinklers & roof ladders to assist in suppressing wildfires
- Do not burn in windy conditions
- Do not discard smoking materials from vehicles, use interior ashtrays
- Do not be careless with campfires, fire pits, etc.

This Booklet can be found on the Rural Municipality of Corman Park's website under http://www.rm.cormanpark.ca/page/emergency_preparedness

PREPARING FOR GRASS/WILDFIRES

People who live in a wildland/urban interface area are responsible for protecting their homes and property from the risk of grass/wildfire. By doing this, municipal and provincial firefighters will have a better chance to prevent or reduce losses when a grass/wildfire occurs.

To prevent dangerous wild fires starting on your property, assess your property to determine its risk. You can find forms in the FireSmart book to help with this assessment on the Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management (SERM) website (<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/>). On the right hand side, click Wildfire Management.

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ENVIRONMENT

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WHAT'S NEW

Results-Based Regulations
Saskatchewan is adopting a new, results-based model for environmental regulation that will improve protection of the environment, while promoting innovative new tools in environmental management, including the [Saskatchewan Environmental Code](#).
Read More

Go Green
The Go Green Fund is a financial commitment from the Government of Saskatchewan to assist Saskatchewan's people, communities, non-government organizations and businesses address the province's most important environmental issues. Funding information and ways to Go Green can be found here. [Read More](#)

Climate Change
The single most significant environmental challenge facing the globe

FEATURES

- Maps
Find or create a map here.
- Air Quality
Saskatchewan Air Quality Monitoring
- Contacts
Emergency Numbers
- Wildfire Management**
- Bonjour

The Wildfire Management page will appear. On Left-hand side, click **Be FireSmart**.

This will take you to the Wildfire Education and Prevention – FireSmart Page
Click **Wildfire Risk Assessment**

Home / About Environment / Programs & Services / Wildfire Management

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Wildfire Management

Details on current and past wildfire activity, fire weather, how to report a wildfire, fire bans currently in effect, safe burning practices and burning permit requirements; information on wildfires are managed; how to become a firefighter; protecting yourself against the threat of wildfire and information on the Smokey Bear program can be found below.

Report a Fire
Fire fighters are most successful when wildfires are discovered and reported as soon as possible. The ministry asks the public to report any wildland fires they observe to 1-800-667-9660.

Current Fire Activity
We rely on current daily information on fire activity in the province to implement decisions, strategies, objectives and goals.

Burning Permits
The Prairie and Forest Fire Act states that burning permits are required from April 1 to October 31 of any given year and that if anyone is planning to burn grass, ditches and pastures, stubble, windrows or any other potentially dangerous burning they must obtain a free burning permit.

Fire Bans
A fire ban issued by the Ministry of Environment is a Director's Order to restrict or eliminate the use of fire in areas of high fire risk. This is a tool to attempt to minimize the risk of accidental wildfires resulting from human activity. The Director's Order is a temporary law in effect until it is revoked when the wildfire danger has sufficiently lowered.

Wildfire Management Strategy Zones
The Wildfire Management Strategy Zones direct the way the province responds to wildfires. Many factors are considered when deciding what actions to take against wildfires. The Ministry of Environment believes that healthy, vibrant forests that are naturally renewed by fire or through forest harvest that mimics natural fire, are in the best interest of northern residents, businesses and the province.

Weather and Observation Towers

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

Wildfire Education and Prevention - FireSmart

Fire Management and Forest Protection's mandate is to protect Saskatchewan from wildfire. The three primary objectives of the Education and Prevention L

1. Reducing Unwanted Human Caused Wildfires
2. Increasing Public Awareness and Self Protection Capacity
3. Reducing Wildfire Risk to People and Property

Resources have been developed and are available for stakeholders to utilize. below for more detailed information.

- > Smokey Bear
- > **Wildfire Risk Assessment**
- > FireSmart Resources
- > Wildfire Advertising Resources
- > Fuel/Vegetation Management for Community Wildfire Protection

Print this page
Email to a friend

The Wildfire Risk Assessment Page will open. Towards the bottom of the page is the link for the FireSmart Booklet. This booklet has the assessment forms in it.

RESOURCES

- About Saskatchewan »
- About Government »
- About Environment »
- » Programs & Services
- » Licences
- » Permits
- » Contact Information
- » Ministry Overview
- » Careers
- » Media
- » Legislation
- » Photo Galleries
- » Publications
- » Forms

WILDFIRE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION - FIRE SMART

Wildfire Risk Assessment

Every year more homes, cottage and businesses are built in or near t Saskatchewan. Eventually many of these properties will be threatene from wildfire, despite the best efforts of rural fire departments and th suppression forces. If a forest fire approaches your buildings, it may individual attention to each structure. Buildings are saved more frequ precautions in advance. Even as the last flames of a wildfire die dow frequently ask the same question, "Is there anything I could have dor Wildfire Risk Assessment links will provide many resources to assist identifying and managing wildfire risk.

- » Community Wildfire Risk Profiles - A to J
- » Community Wildfire Risk Profiles - K to R
- » Community Wildfire Risk Profiles - S to W

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Are You At Risk From Wildfire?
 Are You At Risk From Wildfire.pdf (13.9 KB)

What You Need to Know About Wildfire
 What You Need to Know About Wildfire.pdf (305.4 KB)

A Guide to Managing Community Wildfire Risk
 A Guide to Managing Community Wildfire Risk.pdf (4.3 MB)

Community Wildfire Risk Assessment Report
 Community Wildfire Risk Assessment Report.pdf (5.1 MB)

FireSmart Protecting Your Community From Wildfire
 Firesmart Booklet.pdf (1.9 MB)

Forest Protection Offices



Forest Protection Offices

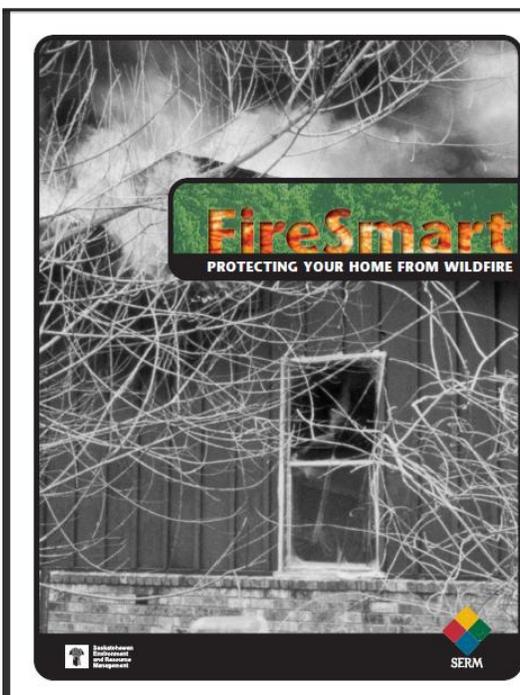
To report a wildfire, call
Firewatch
1-800-667-9660

Fire Watch

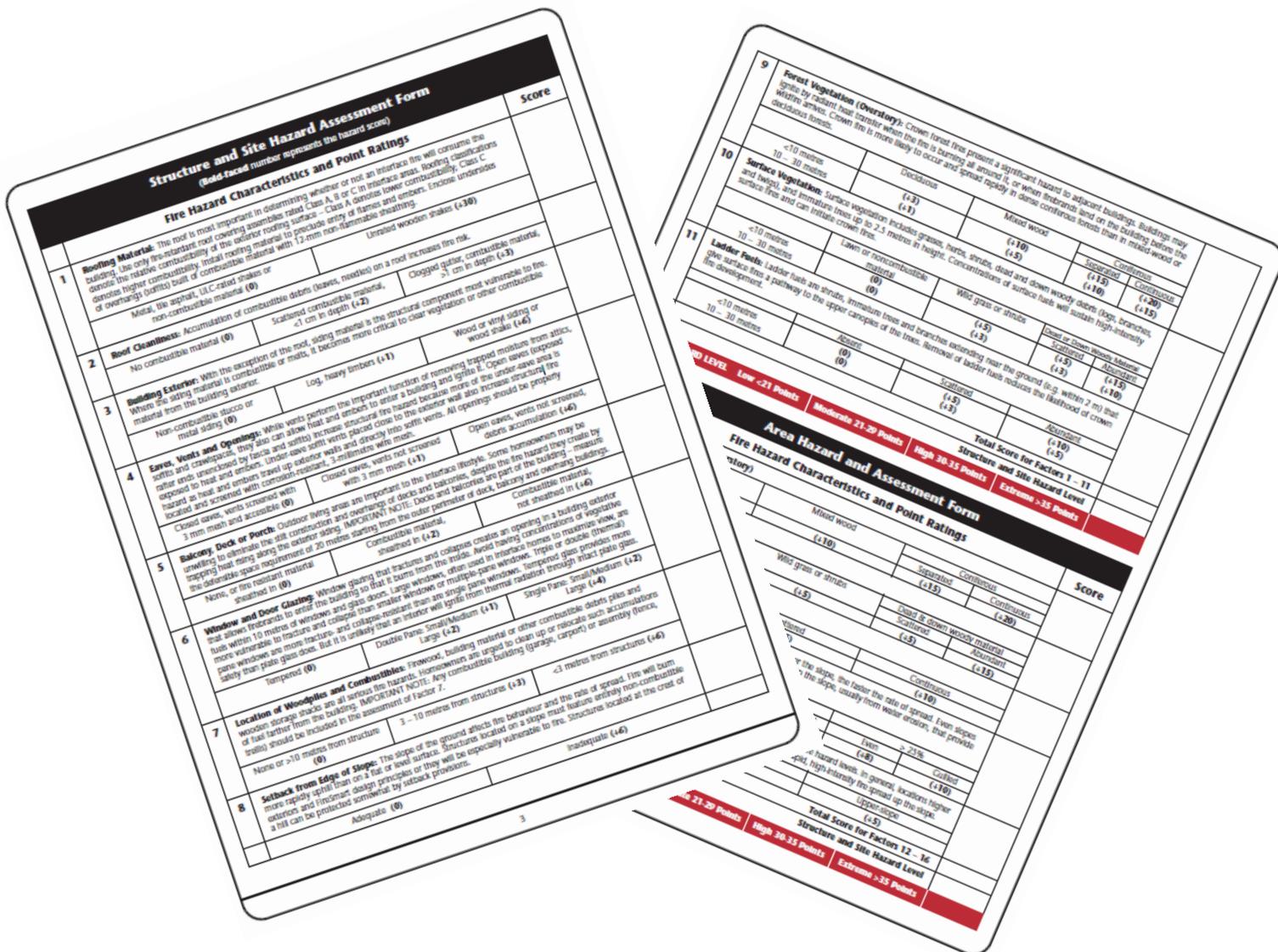
Be FireSmart
Learn how to protect your home and dwellings from wildfire.

Fire Smart

After clicking the FireSmart Protecting Your Community From Wildfire link, the FireSmart booklet will open.



On Page 3 is the **Structure and Site Hazard Assessment Form** and on Page 4 is the **Area Hazard and Assessment Form**.



The Wildfire Hazard Assessment System has two components.

1. A Structure and Site Hazard Assessment Form helps you evaluate building and adjacent site characteristics up to 30 m from the structure
2. An Area Hazard Assessment Form assesses site characteristics greater than 30 m from the building itself (Priority Zone 3)

Completing both portions of the Wildfire Hazard Assessment Form provides a complete assessment of the fire hazard a property is exposed to, from the perspective of the general area, local site and the building itself. The Area Hazard Assessment Form assesses five factors that influence potential fire behaviour. Each factor gets a point rating for the degree of fire hazard it contributes. For each factor on the form, there is a choice of three point rating selections. To calculate the hazard level for the area, add the individual point rating scores for each factor. Use the rating scale at the bottom of the form to determine if your hazard is low, moderate, high or extreme.

SECTION 1: GENERAL PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE

1.1 BEFORE GRASS/WILD FIRE SEASON

- Know if you live in a high-risk area
- Prepare a Family Plan
 - It will take you about 20 minutes to complete your personalized plan
 - Practicing your family emergency plan will help make sure you take appropriate actions in a real emergency situation
 - Have an escape plan so that all members of the family know how to get out of the house quickly and safely
 - Review your plan regularly; update contact numbers/meeting locations, as needed
 - Talk about emergency situations ahead of time. This will help to reduce the fear and anxiety and will help everyone to know how to respond
 - Where is everyone (school, work, etc.)
 - Everyone should know what to do in the event all family members are not together when an emergency happens
 - Designated person to pick up children should you be unavailable
 - Where will we meet
 - Pick two places to meet:
 - 1) Right outside of your home
 - 2) Outside of your neighbourhood in case you can't return home or are asked to leave your neighbourhood
 - Everyone must know the address and phone number of both of the meeting places.
 - How will we communicate to each other
 - Develop an emergency communications plan. In case family members are separated from one another during an emergency, have a plan for getting back together.
 - Realize that separation is a possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school/daycare/activities.
 - Who will be our outside contact person(s)
 - Ask an out-of-town relative or friend to be your family contact
 - Your contact should live outside of your area
 - Family members should call the contact and tell him or her where they are
 - Everyone must know the contact's name, address and phone number.
 - Where will we stay
 - Discuss what to do if authorities ask you to evacuate
 - Before an emergency happens, make arrangements for a place to stay with a friend or relative who lives out of town
- Prepare personal emergency supply kits (list on Page 8) for your home, pet and car
- Have a grab-and-go kit ready if you have to leave your home quickly
- Check with your insurance broker to ensure that you have appropriate & adequate insurance coverage
- Keep important papers (mortgage papers, insurance policies, birth certificates, etc.) in a portable, fireproof and waterproof container or off property so they do not get destroyed
- Have a record (and pictures) of your valuables in a safe place
- Check for, and remove, fire hazards in and around your home, outbuildings and property such as dried out branches, leaves and debris
- Keep a good sprinkler in an accessible location
- Learn fire safety techniques and teach them to members of your family
- Have fire drills with your family on a regular basis
- Know power and gas shut off procedures
- Check on elderly or disabled neighbours to ensure they are aware of the situation
- Maintain first-aid supplies to treat the injured until help arrives
- Make sure every floor and all sleeping areas have smoke detectors
- Consult with your local fire department about making your home fire-resistant
- Keep your car/vehicle's gas tank full in case you have to leave the area



- Make sure all family members are familiar with the technique of "**STOP, DROP, AND ROLL**" in case of clothes catching on fire

1. **Stop** - The fire victim must stop still. Ceasing any movement which may fan the flames or hamper those attempting to put the fire out.



2. **Drop** - The fire victim must 'drop' to the ground, lying down if possible, **covering their face with their hands to avoid facial injury.**



3. **Roll** - The fire victim must roll on the ground in an effort to extinguish the fire by depriving it of oxygen. If the victim is on a rug or one is nearby, they can roll the rug around themselves to further extinguish the flame.



The effectiveness of stop, drop and roll may be further enhanced by combining it with other firefighting techniques, including the use of a fire extinguisher, dousing with water, or fire beating your skin.

- Consider arrangements for your **pets and livestock**
 - With the exception of service animals, pets are generally not permitted in emergency evacuation centres
 - Before an emergency happens, plan where you would take your pets
- Check on elderly or disabled **neighbours** to ensure they are aware of the situation
- If you are advised by officials to **evacuate**, do so. Take your emergency kit with you.
- Take care of your **livestock**
 - Prepare & maintain a fuel-reduced area in which livestock can be moved/held during a fire
 - If you are on a farm/ranch, sheltering livestock may be the wrong thing to do because a wildfire could trap animals inside, causing them to burn alive
 - Use a ploughed or heavily grazed field with a minimum of grass or stubble which is located away from any wild grass area and to the leeward side of your property
 - Use pastures with shade and water available
 - Have an evacuation plan for livestock in case your animals can not be moved onto a safe area on your property. Make & confirm transportation & feeding arrangements in advance.
 - Horses and cattle fare relatively well during wildfire events while pigs, sheep and poultry are more vulnerable, often succumbing to heat stress before the fire even arrives
 - In a last resort situation where you are unable to move livestock into a fire safe area, as long as there is no danger to people or vehicular traffic, it is advisable to cut fences, turning the animals loose to take their chances with the fire.
- Take care of **feed crops**
 - Hay stacks, hay sheds and silos must be protected. Their contents may be the only stock feed available after a large fire
 - Surround fodder reserves with a bare area at least 5 meters wide with another 20 meter wide fuel reduced strip around this area
 - Do not attempt to burn off around these areas. Graze, mow & slash grass to desired height
 - Dry hay before it is baled and stored to prevent spontaneous combustion
 - Store hay away from roads and boundary fences
 - Grazing livestock can be used to reduce grass around building/fence-lines/haystacks
 - Erect a temporary fence to enable stock to graze right up to fodder reserves to reduce the fire risk
- Check out local media for developing situations. Best to anticipate a fire rather than be surprised by it.

1.2 PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Although there are many municipal and provincial agencies ready to provide aid should a devastating grass/wild fire occur, it is the personal responsibility of each of us to be prepared to deal with any disaster should it unexpectedly strike.

Agencies from all levels of government can do their jobs more efficiently, if each one of us takes personal responsibility for preparedness. Preparing ourselves, our families and being ready to help our neighbours will help to reduce the devastating effects of disasters.

1.3 PERSONAL EMERGENCY SUPPLY KITS

In case of a major event you will need some basic supplies set aside. That way you will always be prepared to *be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours* while emergency workers focus on people in urgent need

Basic Emergency Kit

Many of the items required in an emergency kit are found in most people's homes. You may have some of these basic emergency kit items already, such as a flashlight, battery-operated radio, food, water and blankets. The key is to make sure they are organized, easy to find and easy to carry (in a suitcase with wheels or in a backpack) in case you need to evacuate your home. Whatever you do, don't wait for a disaster to happen.

- Water
 - Two litres of water for drinking per person per day (Include small bottles that can be carried easily in case of an evacuation order)
- Food
 - That won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars & dried foods and mixes, instant soup/oatmeal (remember to replace the food and water once a year)
 - Choose ready to eat foods that your family likes & that **do not** need refrigeration
 - Canned food: soup/stew/pasta, baked beans, meat/poultry/fish, vegetables/fruits
 - Crackers, cereal, cookies
 - Honey, peanutbutter, syrup/jam, salt/pepper/sugar, Instant coffee, tea, powered milk
 - Choose foods that will not increase thirst (low sodium)
- Manual can opener
- Battery-powered or wind-up radio and flashlight (and extra batteries)
- First aid kit
- Disposable cleaning cloths, such as "baby wipes" for the whole family to use in case bathing facilities are not available
- Special needs items – prescription medications, infant formula , diapers, or equipment for people with disabilities
- Extra keys – for your car and house
- Cash – include smaller bills, such as \$10 bills (travellers cheques are also useful) and change for payphones
- Emergency plan
- Pets -- Include a three-day supply of pet food and water.

Recommended Additional Items:

- Two additional litres of water per person per day for cooking/cleaning
- Candles and matches or lighter
- Change of clothing and footwear for each household member
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each household member
- Toiletries; Toilet Paper; Hand Sanitizer
- Utensils; disposable plates, bowls
- Garbage bags, tin foil, plastic wrap, small plastic bags
- Household chlorine bleach or water purifying tablets
- Basic tools (hammer, pliers, wrench, etc.)
- Small fuel operated stove and fuel
- A whistle
- Duct tape to tape up windows, doors, air vents, etc.
- Playing cards, books, games, etc.

Remember:
Check your kit once a year
to ensure everything is up-to-date.
Restock as needed.

Car Kits

If you have a car, prepare an emergency car kit and keep it in the vehicle. The basic emergency kit for cars should include the following items:

- Food – that won't spoil, such as energy bars
- Water – in plastic bottles so they won't break if frozen (change every six months)
- Blanket, Extra clothing and shoes
- First aid kit – with seatbelt cutter
- Small shovel, scraper and snowbrush
- Candle in a deep can and matches
- Wind-up flashlight
- Whistle – in case you need to attract attention
- Roadmaps, copy of your emergency plan and personal documents



Also keep these inside your trunk:

- Sand, salt or cat litter (non clumping)
- Antifreeze/windshield washer fluid
- Tow rope, Jumper cables, Fire extinguisher, Warning light or road flare

Prepare Your Pets

Include your pet(s) in your family emergency plan. With the exception of service animals, pets are generally *NOT* permitted in emergency evacuation centres. Before an emergency happens, plan where you would take your pets if you could not take them with you to a public emergency evacuation centre.

- Ask friends/relatives outside of your immediate area whether they would be willing to shelter your pet(s) should an emergency occur
- Contact the hotels and motels outside of your immediate area to check on their policies regarding pets and whether they have restrictions on the number, size and type of pet
 - Also ask whether any “no pet” policies might be waived in an emergency
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities/veterinarians who would be willing to shelter pets in the event of an emergency
- Contact local animal shelters and ask if they provide shelter for pets in the event of an emergency
 - This should only be used as a last resort
 - Animal shelters have limited resources and will be very busy in an emergency
- Keep a list of all “pet friendly” places and their telephone numbers so that you can call ahead for reservations should you have notice of an impending emergency

Pet Kits

Prepare an emergency survival kit for your pet(s) to keep them comfortable for **at least three days**. This kit should be stored in an easy to carry bag or container in the event you have to leave your home and stored next to your emergency survival kit. The following is a list of items that you should include in your pet emergency survival kit:

- Food, potable water, bowls, paper towel and a can opener
- Blanket and a small toy
- Sturdy leash/harness
- Cat litter/pan (if required) and plastic bags
- Carrier for transporting your pet
- Medications and medical records (including vaccinations)
- Current photo of your pet in case your pet gets lost
- Information on feeding schedule/medical/behavioural problems in case you must board your pet
- Up-to-date ID tag with your phone number and the name/phone number of your veterinarian
- Copy of license, Muzzle (if required)



Please contact your veterinarian, should you have questions about the care of your pet and the items that should be included in their emergency survival kit. You may not be at home when an emergency occurs and and/or an evacuation order is issued. Before an emergency happens, ask a trusted neighbour to evacuate your pet if need be, and meet you in a pre-arranged location. This individual should have a key to your home, know where the pet emergency kit is located, be comfortable with your pet and, more importantly, know where your pet is likely to be.

Livestock/Farm Emergency Kit:

During an emergency, you will need to decide whether to confine large animals in an available shelter or leave them outdoors. It will depend on what emergency/disaster is occurring and how much warning you have.



- Have a current list of all animals
 - Include their location, records of feeding, vaccinations & tests
- Have a contact list of emergency phone numbers (employees, neighbours, veterinarian, poison control, animal care, transportation resources, etc.)
- Supplies for temporary identification of your animals
 - Plastic neckbands, permanent markers to label animals with your name, address and phone number
- Basic first aid kit
- Handling equipment such as halters, cages, blankets, etc.
- Bolt cutters to quickly free animals in an emergency
- Water, feed and buckets
- Tools and supplies needed for sanitation
- Emergency equipment
 - Cell phone
 - Flashlights
 - Portable radios
 - Other safety & emergency items for your vehicles and trailers
- Consider evacuating your animals only on the advice of your veterinarian or local emergency management officials.

Remember:
Check your kit once a year
to ensure everything is up-to-date.
Restock as needed.

For more information, the Emergency Preparedness for [Farm Animals, Livestock, and Poultry](#) document can be found on the www.getprepared.ca website under publications.

SECTION 2: LEARN HOW TO EVACUATE

Evacuation is a protective action that may be ordered by emergency officials when there is a significant threat posed to a specific area or community.

2.1 When to Evacuate:

- Evacuate only when instructed to do so by your local emergency officials
- If ordered to evacuate, listen to media reports to learn about areas being evacuated and which routes are safest to take.

2.2 How to Know to Evacuate

- Evacuation orders are typically broadcast through the media or delivered directly to homes and businesses by emergency responders, such as the police

2.3 If Ordered to Evacuate

- Offer to assist neighbours who may not be able to evacuate on their own. If possible, make these arrangements in advance
- Take your family emergency survival kit, important documents (e.g., medical and vaccination records) and your personal valuables (e.g., cash, credit cards).
- Wear comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear
- Make arrangements for pets and livestock
- Shut and lock doors and windows including barn doors and gates
- Shut off water supply, natural gas (shut off gas value at the meter) & power to all buildings, barns, etc.
- Leave a note in your mailbox saying where you've gone and inform an out-of-area contact
- Evacuate the area affected by the emergency **exactly** as directed
- Remain calm, do not speed and obey official directions as some roads may be closed (due to flooding or washed away) or rerouted
- **DO NOT** take shortcuts. Doing so might lead you to a blocked or dangerous area.
- During some evacuations, you may be asked to report to a reception centre. These may be set up to retrieve evacuee contact information or arrange for temporary housing
- Avoid using the telephone unless you are reporting an emergency or it is absolutely necessary. Emergency responders and those who need immediate emergency assistance will need all available lines.
- Listen to media reports to stay informed about further announcements from your local emergency officials.

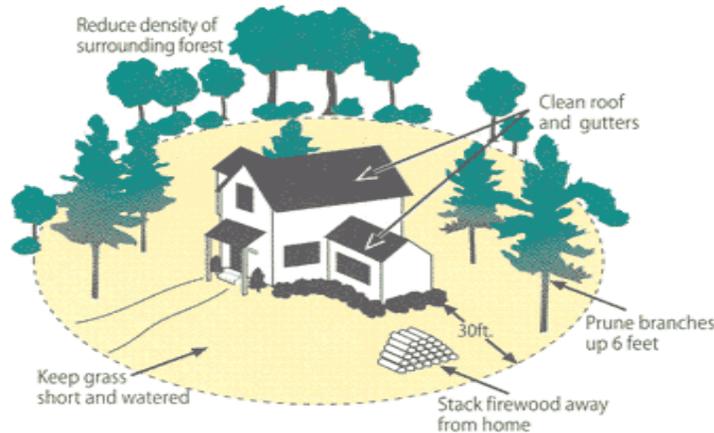


SECTION 3: GRASS/WILDFIRE PRECAUTIONS

3.1 To Reduce the Likelihood of Grass/Wildfire Damage

Tall trees, wild grass, shrubs & any other vegetation are all potential fuel but some simple steps can be taken to create defensible space around your home to reduce an approaching fire's volatility. Properly preparing your home & community *doesn't guarantee* that you will not incur fire damage, but it does **reduce the risks**.

- Keep a **30 foot "safety zone"** surrounding your home and outbuildings
 - This area should be clear of brush, with grass cut short
 - Store firewood and other combustible materials at least 30 feet away from any buildings
 - For homes that sit on a steep slope, the safety zone should be increased accordingly. (Fires spread more easily up hill; therefore it's important to extend the priority zone precautions further on downhill slopes and on windward exposures.



- Your Home:
 - Use fire resistant materials to build or to replace flammable materials. Tile, metal or asphalt roofing materials and brick or stucco walls are the most fire resistant.
 - Untreated or poorly treated wood shake shingles are the least fire resistant and in many cases, offer almost certain ignition of your home.
 - Enclose the undersides of decks and porches, eaves, soffits and fascia
 - Cover vents with non-combustible screening to prevent firebrands or other flammable objects larger than 1/4" from entering the space (PVC and vinyl products should be avoided as they melt even at low temperatures)
 - Double pane windows and tempered glass are recommended for large windows and high risk areas (lessen the chance of windows breaking and allowing embers to enter your home and ignite it from within)
 - Construct covers for all attic and basement openings. Pay attention to places where combustible materials meet each other, for example, where a wooden fence is attached to the wooden stairs that leads to a wooden deck
- Park boats, campers, etc. in an enclosed area or away from your home
- Make sure there is easy access to your house/property by emergency vehicles
- Keep your yard/lawn healthy, cut, and watered. It is a natural firebreak
- Clean up dead leaves and twigs from yard, roof and gutters
- Cut tree limbs within 15 feet of the ground and remove dead branches that extend over the roof
- Do not park cars, trucks or recreational vehicles on dry grass or shrubs
 - Exhaust systems on vehicles can reach temperatures of more than 1,000 degrees; it only takes about 500 degrees to start a grass fire in the summer.
- Use an approved spark arrester on all internal combustion engine power equipment
 - This special muffler helps ensure that sparks generated by off road vehicles, chainsaws and other equipment do not start grass fires.
- If you barbeque, maintain a **10 foot area** (3 meters) free of brush & shrubbery around grills/propane tanks.
 - **NEVER** leave a grill unattended.
- Keep a shovel, bucket of water, fire extinguisher/garden hose on hand when burning outside

-
- For communities or developments surrounded by grass or similar vegetation a strategically placed fire break would be an effective wildfire risk mitigation tool. A fire break is a narrow strip at least 3 metres (10 feet) wide where all the vegetation is removed down to the mineral soil, with no attempt at vegetation conversion.

Acreage with a Fire Break



- Other methods of fuel management in grass & aspen areas are the use of prescribed burns & mowing
- You should place extinguishers on each piece of farm implement
 - A 20 lb. multi- purpose dry chemical extinguisher is an idea type of extinguisher to use
 - By having pressurized water extinguisher or pump-action extinguisher on your balers and combines may help you to extinguish a small fire before it is out of control
- Obtain insurance coverage for all farm resources at risk from fire including crops and livestock - government disaster financial assistance is limited and only covers uninsurable perils.
- Remember, while a fire department is fighting a grass/wild fire, valuable emergency apparatus and manpower are being tied up resulting in the potential for delayed response to other calls.

Please Note: If a fire department responds to a fire on your property you will receive a bill for services rendered.

Everyone has a responsibility to protect their homes and their families. By planning ahead & taking practical steps to prepare, you can do your part to try to minimize grass fire damage.

If an emergency/disaster happens in the R.M., it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. Be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a *minimum* of 72 hours.

3.2 If a Wildfire Is Approaching Your Home

If you see a fire approaching your home or community, **report it immediately by dialling 9-1-1** or your local emergency number. IF it is safe, and there is time before the fire arrives, you should take the following action:

- Monitor local radio stations
- Dress for safety. Put on socks, closed-toed leather shoes or boots, long pants and long-sleeved shirt. Grab a pair of leather gloves, a bandanna and a hat as well.
- Close all windows and doors in the house
- Cover vents, windows, and other openings of the house with duct tape and/or pre-cut pieces of plywood
- Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so that doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out. Close all garage doors.
- Park your car, positioned forward out of the driveway. Keep car windows closed and have your valuables already packed in your car.
- Turn off propane or natural gas. Move any propane barbeques into the open, away from structures.
- Turn on the lights in the house, porch, garage & yard. This aids visibility if smoke fills the home, etc.
- Inside the house, move combustible materials such as light curtains & furniture away from the windows
- Place a ladder to the roof in the front of the house
- Put lawn sprinklers on the roof of the house and turn on the water if sufficient water is available
- Move all combustibles away from the house, including firewood and lawn furniture
- Evacuate your family, livestock and pets to a safe location

SECTION 4: AFTER A GRASS/WILDFIRE

After a wildfire, the likelihood of natural hazards such as landslides, severe surface soil erosion and flooding can increase significantly. In wildland–urban interface areas (i.e. fires near populated areas), these hazards can increase the risk to life, property and infrastructure.

- Check with fire officials before attempting to return to your home
- If you have a fire, get your neighbours to help fight it
- The water you put into your pool or hot tub and other containers will come in handy now. If the power is out, try connecting a hose to the outlet on your water heater.
- For several hours after the fire, maintain a "fire watch." Re-check for smoke & sparks throughout the house.
- Use caution when re-entering a burned area - flare-ups can occur
- Check grounds for hot spots, smouldering stumps and vegetation. Use your buckets of water.
- Check the roof and exterior areas for sparks and embers
- Check the attic and throughout the house for hidden burning sparks and embers
- Continue to check for problem areas for several days
- Contact 911 if any danger is perceived
- If burning outside your home was extensive, watch for soil erosion
- Consult local experts on the best way to restore and replant your land with fire safe landscaping
- Contact your insurance agent. Take photos or videotape of the damage.

SECTION 5: RM OF CORMAN PARK FIRE FACTS

5.1 Controlled Burns

- You do not need a fire permit to burn on your property in the R.M. of Corman Park
- You do need to notify the R.M. office that you wish to conduct a controlled burn
- If you are within the Saskatoon Fire Department response area, you must contact that fire department as well
- If you are within an area that a volunteer fire department would respond, the R.M. office will advise the appropriate department of the date, time and location of the burn. A map of the fire department boundaries can be found in Appendix A of this booklet (Page 20).
- If you need to advise outside of regular office hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), please call the Controlled Burn After Hours number at 1-866-822-8522.
- Land owners are reminded it is unwise to burn in very windy, dry weather and always provide extensive fire guarding before a controlled burn. Failure to do so is a contravention of The Prairie and Forest Fires Act.
- You should also let your neighbours know so they don't need to telephone the fire department as you are planning a controlled burn
- If a controlled burn has not been reported, the landowner may find him or herself facing a substantial fire invoice if a well meaning passerby calls in a fire report
- Always avoid burning unless the conditions are safe and in doing so you should check the forecast for temperature, wind speed, wind direction
- Always check dryness of materials, amount of nearby surface litter, soil moisture, fire break and nearby buildings BEFORE you start the fire.
- You should be prepared before you do your controlled burn by making sure that you have a truck mounted water tank, pump and hose available as well as extra help to extinguish fire around fence posts and poles and so on

5.2 Fire Bans

The decision when or where to implement voluntary fire bans in the R.M. is made by the R.M. of Corman Park Administrator in consultation with the North Corman Park Fire Chiefs Association and its recommendation based on local fire hazards or dangers, the type of weather conditions forecasted and the type of fire activity being experienced.

To determine if a fire ban has been implemented or removed in the R.M. please visit www.rm-cormanpark.ca. Bans and ban removal are posted on the website's home page.

5.3 Fire Bylaws in the RM of Corman Park

1. A Bylaw is in place that limits the number of controlled burns that a person can undertake at one time in the R.M. of Corman Park to one (1) burn.
2. A Bylaw is in place prohibiting controlled burns on commercial and industrial properties in the R.M. of Corman Park.

For more information on fire in the municipality go to the R.M.'s website http://www.rm-cormanpark.ca/page/fire_protection/ to access our Fire Protection brochure.



SECTION 6: OTHER WEB RESOURCES

Weather Warnings:

- Environment Canada Public Weather Warnings for Saskatchewan
http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/warnings/sk_e.html
- The Weather Network's Page for Alerts: Weather Warnings & Public Alerts
<http://www.theweathernetwork.com/alerts/?product=alerts>

Road Conditions

- Saskatchewan Highways –Road Conditions
<http://roadinfo.telenium.ca/shwyw.html>

Get Prepared Website: (Federal Government Website), www.GetPrepared.ca

- Kit(s) Information
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/knw/kt/kt-eng.aspx>
- Make a Plan
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/knw/plan/plan-eng.aspx>
Site that you can create your plan on line and print out
- Emergency Preparedness for Farm Animals, Livestock, and Poultry Booklet
http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/collection_2009/sp-ps/PS4-71-2009E.pdf
- Wild Fires in Canada
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/knw/ris/wldf-eng.aspx>

Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

- Information on When What to Do After a Fire
http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/maho/em/em_003.cfm
- Information on Accessible Housing by Design — Fire Safety for You and Your Home
http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/renoho/refash/refash_042.cfm

Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management Website

- FireSmart: Protecting Your Home from Wildfire booklet
<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=06a3f068-7ce0-4d45-aa2b-76ecd1e0c923>
- What you need to know about wildfire brochure
<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=ea346212-e3e3-4ada-84f6-ba9287fbe327>

SECTION 7: BOOKLET REFERENCES

- Get Prepared Website: (Federal Government Website), www.GetPrepared.ca
 - Kit(s) Information
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/knw/kt/kt-eng.aspx>, Accessed January 22, 2011
 - Make a Plan
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/knw/plan/plan-eng.aspx>, Accessed January 22, 2011
Site that you can create your plan on line and print out
 - Emergency Preparedness for Farm Animals, Livestock, and Poultry Booklet
http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/collection_2009/sp-ps/PS4-71-2009E.pdf Accessed January 25, 2011

- Wild Fires in Canada
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/knw/ris/wldf-eng.aspx>, accessed January 31, 2011

- FireSmart: Protecting Your Home from Wildfire, Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management
<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=06a3f068-7ce0-4d45-aa2b-76ecd1e0c923>, accessed February 1, 2011

- The Home Owners Fire Smart Manual: Protecting Your Home from Wildfires, BC Provincial Government
<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom/pdf/homeowner-firesmart.pdf>, accessed February 1, 2011

- Wildfire Management Branch, Protect Your Farm, BC Provincial Government
<http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/Property/FarmResources.htm>, accessed February 1, 2011

- Contingency Plan Template for On-Farm Planning, The Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Program, September 2007
http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/EnviroFarmPlanning/390100-1_Contingency_Plan_Template.pdf, accessed February 1, 2011

- Fuel Management Project Sheet, SK Provincial Government
<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/adx.aspx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=54e39b1e-a20b-4652-9a18-0b9bf25a25bf&MediaID=3448&Filename=Fuel+Management+Project+Fact+Sheet.pdf&I=English>, accessed February 18, 2011

- What you need to know about wildfire., Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management
<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=ea346212-e3e3-4ada-84f6-ba9287fbe327>, accessed April 1, 2011

APPENDIX A

R.M. of Corman Park Fire Protection Zones Map

