

August 2020

Forestry Initiatives Program

May 2020 FireSmart Community Survey Results

74% of Quesnel and Cariboo residents report regularly raking and clearing all debris (leaves, cones, twigs, etc.) from their yard within 10 metres (32 feet) of the house.

Fire embers may seem small, but they should not be underestimated. 50% of home fires caused by wildfires are started by sparks and embers. Regular maintenance and cleaning of the corners and crevices of your home and yard (where needles and debris build up) will leave nothing for embers to ignite.

21% have tightly spaced trees within 10 metres or 32 feet of their home, including hedges.

» Spacing trees at least 3 metres apart will help reduce the intensity of wildfire.

21% have tree branches overhanging their home, or trees touching their home or garage.

» Reduce the risk of trees transmitting a fire to your house by clearing a 1.5 metre (5 foot) non-combustible zone around your home, including pruning branches close to your house.

90% would be very interested or interested in fire-resistant options if they were going to build a new deck or do some landscaping.

To find out more about the best materials, check out these guides:

49% have trees with low hanging branches in their yard - branches less than 2 metres or 6.5 feet off the ground.

» A surface fire can climb up into trees quickly. Removing branches within 2 meters of the ground will help stop surface fires from moving into treetops.

**THE FIRESMART
LANDSCAPING
GUIDE**

bit.ly/2WLodgP



**THE FIRESMART
BEGINS AT HOME
MANUAL**

bit.ly/35PKluz



79% are interested in finding out their property's Fire Hazard Score.

» Download the free FireSmart Begins at Home App or contact us to get started.

66% have garden beds within 1.5 metres (5 feet) of their home.

» To reduce the chance of embers igniting materials near your home, plants within 10 metres of your home should be adequately watered, low density, and fire-resistant - think moist, supple leaves.

Only **15%** have bark mulch within 1.5 metres (5 feet) of their home.

» Avoid using bark mulch within 10 metres of your home, as it is highly combustible. Use gravel or rock crush instead to significantly reduce the risk of wildfire.

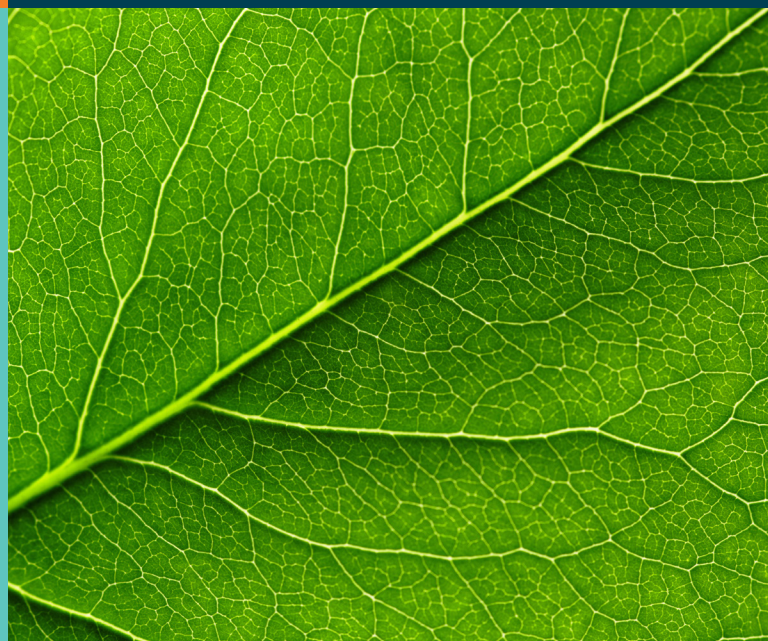
4.1 was the average response when asked how concerned you are about wildfire in Quesnel on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being very concerned).

59% were not sure if their roof vents are screened with 3 mm (1/8") wire mesh.

» Roof vents should be screened or ASTM fire rated. Soffit vents interact with roof vents and will actually pull embers in during a wildfire, and should be screened or ASTM fire rated as well.

20% have combustible materials underneath their balcony, deck or porch.

» Storing items such as firewood piles, construction materials, patio furniture, tools and decorative pieces against or near a house is a major fire hazard. These items should ideally be stored inside your home or garage, or moved at least 10 metres (32 feet) from your home. Remember to remove any windblown leaves from underneath decks.



LEARN MORE

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Quesnel