
VIRTUAL LOCAL FIRESMART REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING WORKSHOP

(A Component of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program)



WORKSHOP BACKGROUND AND SYLLABUS

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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TARGET AUDIENCE:

Fire response and land or municipal managers familiar with wildland/urban interface (WUI) issues and FireSmart principles that wish to implement the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP) in their jurisdiction by serving as Local FireSmart Representatives (LFRs) are the primary target audience.

Specifically:

- Wildland fire management agency / municipal fire department staff
- First Nations and local government staff who are implementing FireSmart initiatives within their communities using CRI funding
- Emergency Management agency staff
- Rural or urban planners or managers
- Office of the Fire Commissioner/Fire Marshall agency staff
- WUI specialists (e.g. RPF's, RFT's, other land specialists with wildland fire responsibilities)
- Wildfire Management staff

Note: A shorter duration (2 hour) 'FireSmart Neighbourhood Champion' workshop is also offered as a component of the FCNRP and will be delivered subsequently by LFRs in their respective jurisdictions. Persons wishing to be involved in the FCNRP but who do not have a professional affiliation with WUI fire protection/ prevention/planning are advised to enroll in the Neighbourhood Champion workshop when offered in their community.

WORKSHOP PURPOSE:

The newly updated LFR workshop was developed by FireSmart Canada to assist participants in becoming familiar with and implement all components of the FireSmart Canada Neighborhood Recognition Program (FCNRP). The training provided in this virtual workshop equips LFRs with an understanding of current Wildland Urban Interface concepts and wildfire hazard assessments. It provides them with the tools and skills necessary to recruit and motivate volunteer community leaders, and mentoring abilities to work with self-organized groups of citizens as they plan and implement wildfire mitigations in their own neighbourhoods.

GENERAL BACKGROUND:

This workshop was developed by the Partners in Protection Association - an association of municipal, provincial/territorial and federal agencies, organizations and individuals dedicated to reducing the risk of wildfire losses in Canada's wildland/urban interface areas.

In 1999, Partners in Protection published a comprehensive manual - *FireSmart: Protecting Your Community from Wildfire* and has been on the leading edge of interface fire protection in Canada ever since. The FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program is the second major component of the FireSmart Canada Initiative being promoted by the Association and has been developed for presentation across Canada.

Local FireSmart Representatives are the key facilitators of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program. They are the primary catalyst for achieving its greater goal of motivating and engaging citizens to plan and take action towards reducing wildfire losses. The FCNRP is "grassroots", and especially effective on private land in the wildland/urban interface, beyond the reach of agency driven wildfire hazard mitigation programs on public lands. This workshop evolved from a prototype delivered at Kamloops, B.C. in April, 2012.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

The FCNRP – LFR workshop will:

- Enhance participant understanding of wildland fire behavior, how homes and structures are threatened by wildfire and ignite, how to systematically recognize wildfire hazards in the WUI, and the full range of FireSmart mitigations for reducing wildfire risk to the WUI.
- Enable participants to apply and understand the wildland fire hazard assessment process and appropriate mitigation measures available to individual or small groups of homes in ways that will aid residents in working together to reduce wildfire risks at the neighbourhood scale.
- Provide an overview of FCNRP components, step-by-step procedures for implementing the FCNRP, and examples and exercises that develop the skills required to make it work effectively in your jurisdiction.

- Prepare you to fulfill all LFR duties or contract assistance in support of the FCNRP and agency wildfire protection goals in the greater community.
- Provide you with the communication tools required (i.e. a delivery ready mini-workshop) to recruit, inform and motivate area residents and assist Neighbourhood Champions to take the lead in organizing their neighbours to take collective actions that reduce the potential for wildfire losses.

ORGANIZATION:

The workshop consists of a series of nine virtual classroom modules with exercises that cover critical WUI background information, the 5-step FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program and material to facilitate and deliver future:

- Neighbourhood Champion workshops
- FireSmart Awareness Workshops
- FireSmart Program Information Presentation

This virtual workshop spans two consecutive half-days with either morning or afternoon sessions running each day from approximately 0800 to 1200 (morning sessions) OR 1300 to 1700 (afternoon sessions) with a short break during each half-day session.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS:

An email containing a unique link to connect to the virtual LFR workshop platform, detailed instructions on accessing the workshop, workshop course materials and the workshop background and syllabus agenda will be sent out to each participant individually approximately one week prior to the workshop date.

WORKSHOP SYLLABUS:

The Workshop Syllabus features 9 Workshop Modules (WM) each with a specific set of Learning Objectives (LO) as outlined on the following page.

These modules are divided into two major workshop sections. In order of presentation, these are:

1. Section A – Wildland/Urban Interface Primer - Content: WUI – where and what – Wildland Fire Behaviour and Structure Ignition – Home Ignition Zone hazard assessment
2. Section B – FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program - Content: Implementing the FireSmart Canada 5 step Neighbourhood Recognition Program

LOCAL FIRESMART REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING WORKSHOP
Workshop Modules (WM) and Learning Objectives (LO)
Introduction of trainer / facilitators; Workshop housekeeping
WM 1: Workshop Introduction
LO 1-1 Overview – FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program
LO 1-2 FireSmart Canada – Website Tour
SECTION A: WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE PRIMER
WM 2: Where is the Wildland/Urban Interface and What are the Issues?
LO 2-1 WUI – Where and What
LO 2-2 The WUI Fire Problem – major issues
LO 2-3 Wildfire as an essential natural event
WM 3: Wildland Fire Behaviour and Structure Ignition in the WUI
LO 3-1 Understand the mechanism of structural ignitions
LO 3-2 Describe the WUI disaster sequence and lesson learned from wildfire disasters
LO 3-3 Outline recent research findings that are helping refocus WUI mitigation efforts
LO 3-4 Discuss general approaches for reducing structural ignition and loss
WM 4: Home Ignition Zone Hazard Assessment and Mitigation
LO 4-1 Describe the importance of the Home Ignition Zone in breaking the WUI disaster sequence
LO 4-2 Describe the basic approach for assessing wildfire hazards in the Home Ignition Zone
LO 4-3 Explain hazard factors associated with home ignition in the Home Ignition Zone
LO 4-4 Familiarize LFR's with FireSmart Home Ignition Zone Assessment Score Card
SECTION B: ALL ABOUT THE FIRESMART CANADA NEIGHBOURHOOD RECOGNITION PROGRAM
WM 5: Introduction to the Neighbourhood Recognition Program
LO 5-1 Identify situations and locations where the Neighbourhood Recognition Program can be applied
LO 5-2 Describe general duties of the Local FireSmart Representative in implementing the 5 step FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program
WM 6: Neighbourhood Wildfire Hazard Assessment and FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan
LO 6-1 Describe the purpose and content of the Neighbourhood Wildfire Hazard Assessment and FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan
LO 6-2 Explain how to conduct a site visit and complete the Neighbourhood Wildfire Hazard Assessment form
LO 6-3 Understand how to develop FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan recommendations

WM 7: Implementing FireSmart Events
LO 7-1 Describe potential FireSmart Events and Benefits
LO 7-2 Understand the use of FireSmart Plan in describing FireSmart Events
LO 7-3 Describe role of Neighbourhood Committee and Local FireSmart Representative in implementing FireSmart Events
LO 7-4 Outline FireSmart Event funding sources
WM 8: Applying for Recognition
LO 8-1 Describe the Neighbourhood Recognition Application process – applying, approval and renewal
LO 8-2 Understand the roles of the FireSmart Committee, Local FireSmart Representative, Provincial/Territorial Liaison and FireSmart Canada in the Neighbourhood Recognition application/approval process
WM 9: Delivering Workshops and Presentations and Wrap-up
LO 9-1 Describe how to organize and deliver presentations in support of the local FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program
LO 9-2 Enable LFRs to conduct: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) FireSmart Neighbourhood Champion Workshop B) FireSmart Awareness Workshop C) Neighbourhood Champion Information Session
LO 9-3 Provide a summary of LFR Workshop achievements
LO 9-4 Discuss your plans for implementing the FCNRP in your own jurisdiction
LO 9-5 Provide constructive feedback to FireSmart Canada/FireSmart BC on this workshop
WM 10: Provincial Liaison Presentation

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION:

Participants who complete the two-half day LFR workshop will be issued a *Local FireSmart Representative* “Certificate of Completion” by FireSmart Canada and their Provincial/ Territorial FireSmart Liaison. This certificate will be sent electronically once the participant agrees to the terms of the LFR Expectations document following their participation in the LFR Workshop. The Local FireSmart Representative Expectations document clearly outlines the duties and expectations of an LFR as well as defines the role and responsibilities that FireSmart Canada/FireSmart BC plays in order to facilitate the work of the Local FireSmart Representative.

Local FireSmart Representatives are invited and encouraged to engage with FireSmart Canada through their Provincial/ Territorial FireSmart Liaison to commence implementation of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program within their respective jurisdictions.

Local FireSmart Representatives perform a variety of essential duties, and are vital catalysts in assisting residents to establish and maintain FireSmart Neighbourhood recognition status and reduce the potential for wildfire losses in rural and forest communities across Canada.

Note: Participants must attend for the entire workshop (two consecutive half-day sessions) in order to receive a Certificate of Completion.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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- BC FireSmart Committee
- Canadian Council of Forest Ministers - Wildland Fire Management Working Group
- Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre – Wildfire Prevention Community of Practice
- National Fire Protection Association and FireWise Communities USA
- Thompson-Okanagan Interface Society
- BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – BC Wildfire Service (BCWS)
- City of Kamloops, BC
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development – Wildfire Management Branch
- Alberta Municipal Affairs - Alberta Emergency Management Association
- Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction

WORKSHOP SUGGESTIONS:

Materials developed and presented for this workshop are the copyright of FireSmart Canada.

Suggestions for improvements to workshop materials are appreciated and should be submitted to:

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