



News Release

The Time to Prepare for Wildfires is Now

Sechelt, BC—March 28, 2022—The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) is pleased to announce the start of a new program to help residents, neighbourhoods and communities reduce their risk of wildfire and make our region safer.

In 2021, the SCRD was the successful recipient of a grant from the Union of BC Municipalities to educate and support residents on the FireSmart principles. FireSmart is a recognized program designed to empower the public and increase community resilience to wildfire across Canada.

The grant will be largely spent on local projects through the promotion of FireSmart guidelines, which include: conducting hazard assessments of homes and properties, offering advice on ways to reduce fire risks, and considering FireSmart standards when developing properties to reduce flammability.

“Spring time is a great time to learn about the FireSmart program, assess your home’s level of risk and decide what projects you could accomplish to reduce your risk,” says Matt Treit, SCRD Manager of Protective Services.

Residents of the Sunshine Coast can request a free FireSmart home evaluation by a FireSmart coordinator who can help residents understand where their property is vulnerable to wildfire and what steps they can take to reduce the risk.

Fuel management decreases the risk of wildfire damage by reducing the amount of waste wood, tree needles, underbrush and other flammable material that could “fuel” a grassland fire or forest fire. This vital work can significantly slow a wildfire’s rate of spread and also make a safer environment for first responders to extinguish a blaze.

“Ultimately, the protection of private property from the threat of wildfire rests with individual property owners,” says Treit. “No one has a bigger vested interest in protecting your home from wildfire than you do. As citizens and homeowners, we need to take action to protect our own homes and properties and the SCRD can help.”

Visit www.scrd.ca/firesmart to request a free FireSmart home assessment or call 604-885-6887.

Photo (left to right): FireSmart Coordinators, Bill Higgs (his dog Gabi) and Wayne McMahon.



Media Enquiries:

Matt Treit, Manager of Protective Services
Sunshine Coast Regional District
Tel.: 604-885-6800
Email: matt.treit@scrd.ca