

# METCHOSIN GETS FIRE SMART!

Beginning August, we are very excited to roll out our

## 2021 FireSmart Program

for community members throughout Metchosin and Beecher Bay.

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### DROP-OFF CHIPPING PROGRAM:

Location: 4440 Happy Valley Road – in the field

Chipping Dates:

- July 31: 10:00am -2:00pm
- Aug 1: 4:00pm - 8:00pm
- August 21: 10:00am – 2:00pm
- August 22: 4:00pm - 8:00pm
- Additional dates in September to be determined

*Please adhere to the following debris guidelines*

#### Chipping Guidelines:

- Only tree branches between 2.5cm/1" to 17cm/7" in diameter will be chipped.
- Small woody shrubs and windfall branches only – **NO** construction materials, fine debris, lawn clippings, root balls or loose leaves.
- Branches and debris *should not* be placed in bags or boxes or tied with string or wire.
- Branches and debris should be clean with no dirt, gravel or muddy roots.

**ONLY BRANCHES AND CLEAN WOODY SHRUB MATERIALS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

If on-site chipping is required, please email [firesmart@metchosinfire.ca](mailto:firesmart@metchosinfire.ca).

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### LOCAL FIRESMART HOME ASSESSMENTS:

#### What is FireSmart?

FireSmart is a shared responsibility, it's about living in a fire-prone ecosystem and taking the necessary steps to protect your family, property and community from wildfire. FireSmart is a national and provincial inter-agency program that aims to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from fire.

Being FireSmart is about making small changes to your routine that will help protect you, your home and your community from wildfire. Adopting a proactive approach

to fire safety has been shown to reduce the risk of losses in the most extreme wildfire conditions.

## **Why FireSmart?**

The threat of wildfire is increasing. Despite recent wet summers, the trend in BC is progressing towards more devastating wildfire seasons. The District of Metchosis is particularly vulnerable to wildfire with its unique combination of wildland and urban interface areas, aggravated by strong winds throughout the fire season. Wildfires in the region are occurring earlier and lasting longer; don't wait for an event, **prepare your property now**. The homes that are prepared are the homes left standing.

**It's now easier than ever to prepare your home against a wildfire.**

A Wildfire Mitigation Specialist can come to your home to conduct a one-on-one FireSmart consultation, giving you a breakdown of the risk to your property while providing simple and effective steps to mitigate that risk. These consultations are private and confidential, and a great opportunity to receive expert advice for your property at no cost!

To schedule an assessment or to find out more information contact:

[FireSmart@metchosinfire.ca](mailto:FireSmart@metchosinfire.ca)

**We are currently booking into August.**

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## **ROOF TOP SPRINKLERS:**

Roof watering systems are a supplement to already proven FireSmart strategies.

The function of an exterior sprinkler system is to minimize the opportunity for ignition by wetting the home and surrounding property. Exterior sprinkler systems can reduce risks for structures against wind-blown embers, radiant heat and direct flame contact.

If you would like to purchase a sprinkler kit - they are \$25 per sprinkler kit (commercial 'Rain Bird' sprinkler heads).

Included with the kit are sandbags (to keep sprinklers stationary) and all connections - you supply your own garden hose.

Each head will produce a 360\* spray to approximately 40' (12m) diameter - at regular house pressure.

You will likely require more than one head per home. Most average sized home will require three heads to cover the entire roof and surrounding perimeter.

We have attached a flyer to give you a better understanding of how these sprinklers can be used - and if you prefer, how to build your own.

**We now have residential sprinkler kits available for you to purchase...or build yourself.**

If you would like to order a sprinkler kit - please email:  
**firesmart@metchosinfire.ca**

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## **FIRESMART REBATE PROGRAM:**

**Homeowners who take steps to FireSmart their homes may be eligible for reimbursement through the FireSmart Rebate Program.**

Through funding received from the Union of BC Municipality's Community Resiliency Investment Program, the District of Metchosin is offering up to \$500 rebates to residents who take steps to FireSmart their homes or property.

To qualify for a rebate, residents must first have a FireSmart Home Assessment completed by a Local FireSmart Representative.

Next, residents will need to take action on the recommendations made during the home assessment.

If the designated work is successfully completed, the homeowner will be reimbursed for 50% of material and labour costs to a maximum of \$500 rebate per property. Receipts and reassessment will be required.

The rebate program will be available for registration from August 1 to October 30, on a first-come-first-served basis. The deadline to complete the recommended work, and request a rebate is November 30. There are approximately 40 rebates available.

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## **FIRESMART MITIGATION ASSISTANCE:**

**Vulnerable homeowners within our community can access free FireSmart mitigation support from a government-funded job creation grant recently received through the District of Metchosin.**

## FireSmart Mitigation Assistance Cont'd:

Local volunteer firefighters will be employed to assist Beecher Bay and Metchosin seniors and persons with disabilities become FireSmart by preparing and protecting their homes from the threat of wildfires. These crews will remove possible dangers, known as fire fuels, such as bushes, small trees or other organic matter, and provide general information on how homeowners can further protect their property.

If you would like more information on receiving this assistance, please contact [firesmart@metchosinfire.ca](mailto:firesmart@metchosinfire.ca).

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## **FREE FIRESMART EDUCATION EVENTS:**

- **FireSmart Landscaping Workshop:**

August 4 – 6:00pm -9:00pm

August 14 – 10:00am -1:00pm

Location: 663 Taylor Road (Doug Ruth)

Please join us for a free landscaping and tree care seminar with Osprey Tree Service hosted by the Metchosin FireSmart Program at Glengarry Farm (663 Taylor Road). Much of Metchosin falls within the wildland urban intermix zone, the goal of this session will be to teach residents how to ensure their trees, yard and landscaping design choices are effective at minimizing the risk of a wildland or grass fire spreading to their home.

Topics will include:

- Wildfire in Metchosin
- Tree, shrub and plant choices
- Planning new Gardens to be FireSmart
- Tree care and maintenance
- Lowering Fire Risk in existing gardens
- Landscape management
- Garden Design ideas
- and more!

Please RSVP ASAP if you plan on attending, so that we can ensure we have enough course materials for everyone. Hope to see you there!

- **Metchosin Farmers Market:**

**Come visit us at the Metchosin Farmers Market on Sunday, July 18th to learn more about FireSmart opportunities within Metchosin.**

- **Metchosin FireSmart: FireSmart Landscaping - Zoom**  
**Thursday, Aug 26 1-2pm on Zoom**

By making strategic choices in your yard, you can increase the wildfire resiliency of your property and home. We'll hear from local experts **Osprey Forestry Operations**, about fire resistive plants, invasive and native plants and tips and techniques for healthy tree maintenance.

- **FireSmart Information Session:**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 – 7-9PM – Instinct Training Facility (Old School)**