

Community Preparedness



From Risk to Readiness: Community Planning for Wildfire



Wildfire is a long-standing part of life in northern Saskatchewan, shaping both the land and the communities that depend on it. Even so, wildfire can cause serious disruption and harm to people, homes, livelihoods and essential services, making preparedness increasingly important as conditions vary from year to year.

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is responsible for wildfire management and community preparedness across the province. This work is guided by a strong foundation of risk knowledge. In 2004, the Ministry of Environment completed the Saskatchewan Community Wildfire Risk Assessment, the first provinciewide effort to systematically identify and rank communities based on wildfire risk. The assessment covered more than 100 communities and provided practical guidance to help local leaders manage wildfire threats.

Building on this work, the SPSA continues to strengthen preparedness in northern Saskatchewan by supporting the development of wildfire community preparedness plans guided by FireSmart principles. These principles promote shared responsibility for reducing wildfire risk, practical steps to protect homes and buildings, and clear emergency planning. Plans often include evacuation strategies for people, pets and livestock, helping communities prepare for fast-moving situations.

These plans focus on northern communities located in the wildland-urban interface, where homes, infrastructure and forests meet. As of March 2025, 76 per cent of northern communities assessed as being at moderate to high risk had wildfire community preparedness plans. Each complete plan reflects local conditions and priorities, helping communities move from understanding risk to taking action.

Preparedness planning also connects communities to broader support. The SPSA provides [step-by-step resources](#) to help communities build and update emergency response plans. In addition, federal-provincial programs such as the [Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund](#) include support for projects (e.g. forest thinning, fire guard construction and vegetation maintenance) that reduce risks from wildfire. Together, these efforts strengthen community safety, protect critical infrastructure and support long-term resilience across northern Saskatchewan.

As of March 2025,
76 per cent of northern
communities assessed
as being at moderate to
high risk had wildfire
community
preparedness plans.

Why It Matters

Wildfire community preparedness plans help communities understand their wildfire risk by identifying local conditions such as fire behaviour potential, nearby values at risk and available response options. The plans also help identify vulnerable areas and populations, set priorities for risk-reduction actions and prepare well in advance of wildfire seasons. When a wildfire threatens a community, having a plan in place enables faster, safer decision-making and more effective co-ordination during response efforts.

Link to Related Information

[FireSmart](#)

[Explore other resilience stories](#)

