



# Juan de Fuca Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan At-a-Glance

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# Juan de Fuca Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan At-a-glance

Juan de Fuca (JDF) Electoral Area includes the communities of East Sooke, Malahat, Otter Point, Port Renfrew, Willis Point, Shirley, and Jordan River. JDF is heavily forested with relatively isolated communities, despite proximity to the largely urbanized Victoria region. JDF residents live near and amid the forest.

## **What is the history of fire in JDF?**

There is broad variation, with moist forests to the northwest distinct from those in southern portions. Cultural burning was used in many areas by indigenous peoples. Humans continue to cause most wildfires, with lightning accounting for just 3% of ignitions. Aggressive fire suppression in recent decades has altered ecosystems and led to increased fuel density, wildfire frequency and intensity.

## **What is a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan?**

This plan examines wildfire risk in JDF and makes expert recommendations to help build FireSmart communities. Note that risk on privately owned lands could not be studied under the provincial grant funding terms.

## **What was done?**

Wildfire experts conducted wildfire risk assessments on public lands, examining structures and the characteristics of forest vegetation. These assessments combined with the Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis to determine wildfire risk in each community.

## **What did we find?**

Most public lands have a moderate wildfire risk. Risk on adjacent private lands is likely moderate as well. Wildfire risk tends to increase from north to south in JDF.



### What is moderate fire risk?

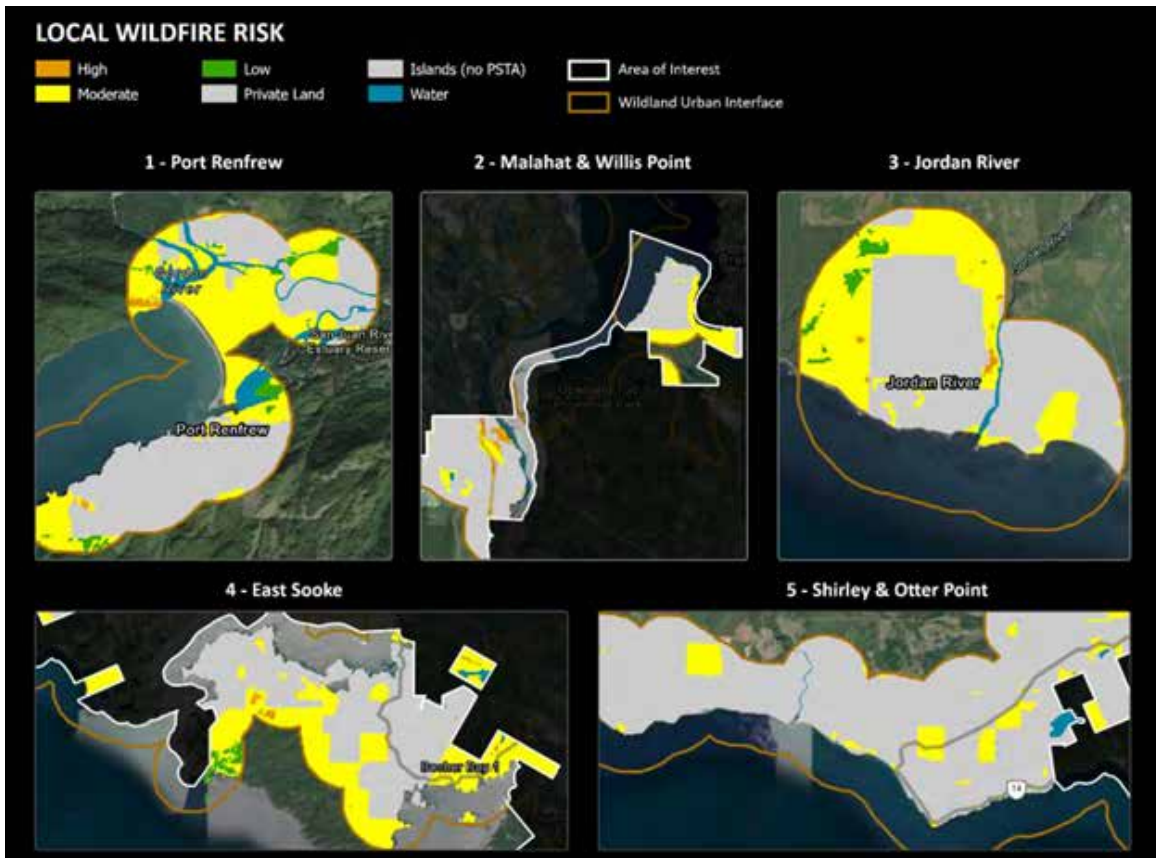
Moderate wildfire risk means that a forest can readily support wildfire of moderate intensity. The risk associated with fires of moderate intensity should not be underestimated. These fires can torch trees, send embers into nearby neighbourhoods, and challenge suppression, even if the most aggressive wildfire behaviour is unlikely.

### Why moderate risk?

Hazardous weather is strongly moderated by the Pacific Ocean. Infrequent “outflow” winds create conditions much more conducive to fire spread.

### Is the risk changing?

Climate change is altering temperatures and precipitation patterns in JDF. Hotter, drier summer conditions are likely to result in an overall increase in wildfire frequency and intensity.



### Who leads fire response?

Fire response is led by local fire departments with help from the BC Wildfire Service. Each community apart from Jordan River has a trained and equipped volunteer fire department. A BC Wildfire Service base is in Cobble Hill and crews arrive by helicopter or vehicle.

### What should I do?

Taking action to FireSmart your property will dramatically decrease the risk of wildfire damaging your home. The best part is, it's surprisingly easy to do. Find out more at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/fire-and-emergency-programs/fire-protection/firesmart>



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# A Resilient Community

## What is CRD doing now to prepare?

The CRD operates local fire departments, the Juan de Fuca Emergency Program, and a FireSmart program. The CRD FireSmart program helps communities prepare by offering residential firesmart assessments, homeowner rebates, free woody debris disposal days, and educational events in each community. It also provides cross-training for local first responders to ensure they are prepared for wildfire.

## What can the CRD do in the future?

Wildfire risk can be reduced through proactive management. The plan includes 35 initiatives for the CRD to consider.

Category	Objective	Initiatives
Education	Promote FireSmart as a strategy for wildfire preparedness and demonstrate the Region's commitment to wildfire resiliency in the community	6
Legislation and Planning	Ensure Regional District by-laws and policies support wildfire resiliency	6
Development Considerations	Consider FireSmart design principles in planning and development bylaws	6
Interagency Cooperation	Ensuring wildfire response is effective	2
Cross Training	Ensuring emergency responders have a variety of training and experience	4
Emergency Planning	Enhance emergency response capacity	5
Vegetation Management	Modify fuel environments to reduce risk around infrastructure and communities	3
Renewing the Plan and Building Resiliency	Incorporate wildfire resiliency into strategic decisions	3



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