

Wildfire Exposure

Wildfire exposure is a component of risk.

An important part of understanding community risk is knowing where homes and other values are exposed to potential ignition from wildfire. An exposure assessment helps identify these areas.

Wildfire exposure is an aspect of risk, although not the only one. Ignition sources, weather patterns, slope, and construction materials contribute to wildfire risk but are not represented on the exposure map. The most significant risk factors are under control of the homeowner within the [home ignition zone](#).

Wildfire Exposure assessments are a planning tool that helps prioritize community mitigation efforts. To understand fine-scale hazards (for example, firewood and vegetation placement around your yard), request your free [FireSmart Home Assessment](#).

How wildfire exposure is assessed.

Not all vegetation burns the same way. Hazard fuels are a potential source of harm because they can allow a wildfire to spread quickly and put homes at risk. Hazard fuels consist of vegetation that throw embers or produce intense heat when they burn, such as conifer trees containing resins or oils. By contrast, broadleaf trees are more fire resistant.

Exposure analyses are straightforward. The more hazard fuels located within 500 m (the distance range for embers) of a point, the higher the wildfire exposure. Exposure is the percentage of land cover within 500m that is considered hazard fuel.

To learn more about wildfire exposure:

- [Firesmart Canada Wildfire Exposure Assessments](#)
- [A simple metric of landscape fire exposure](#)

