



Climate change adaptations for northern First Nation communities & individuals

WILDFIRE

IMPACTS ON PEOPLE

IMPACTS ON WILDFIRE

IMPACTS ON THE LAND

CLIMATE CHANGE

warmer temperatures

changing rain & snow

more/intense storms & winds

more evaporation, drier land
summer

warmer = possible insect outbreaks
fall

later snow fall
winter

earlier melt
spring

longer fire season

more lightning (fire ignition)

more dead/fallen trees (fire fuel)

drier land (fire fuel)

higher risk of accidental ignition

poor air quality

evacuations & stress

damage to the community

Use fire resistant materials for homes & buildings

Monitor for smoke & air quality

Monitor for wildfire risk in your area

Use 'Ontario's Forest Fire Info Map' or create a community-based monitoring program

Monitor water quality after a fire in the area

Keep people informed with community alerts

Manage trees & plants in and around the community

Become a FireSmart community

Raise awareness about human-caused fires

Share info about fire hazard risk, smoke & air quality with the community

Create an emergency plan

community wide & in households

Community Centre



UP NORTH ON CLIMATE
Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Study for the North of Ontario

WILDFIRE - ADAPTATION OPTIONS



Emergency planning



- Emergency planning can help keep people safe in the event of a wildfire.
- Community emergency plans could include: evacuation plans, the roles and responsibilities of community members, plans to protect infrastructure, etc.
- Households can prepare for emergencies by: having emergency supplies, knowing what to pack for evacuation, knowing the community emergency plan, etc.
- Communities can also inventory any fire equipment they have and keep it in working order.

Monitor water quality



- Wildfires can impact water when ash, sediment, or other debris is washed into lakes and rivers.
- When fires happen near or upstream of a community, drinking water could be affected.
- Monitor lakes/streams that supply drinking water after wildfire events and have a plan if water is not safe to drink.

Fire-resistant materials



- Some materials are more fire resistant than others. Use more fire-resistant materials when building new homes or updating existing ones.

Community alerts



- Share information about fire hazard risk, smoke and air quality with the community. Social media, community websites, local television and radio, and posted notices can all be good ways to do this.
- Communities may want to have a special alert or warning alarm to tell residents when there is a wildfire emergency.

FireSmart community



- FireSmart Canada offers programs and information to help households and communities be better prepared for wildfire.
- Managing trees and plants, priority zones around homes and communities, fire-resistant materials, community fireguards, and more, are all part of FireSmart.

Monitor wildfire risk



- Hot, dry conditions can make it easier for fires to start and spread.
- Communities can monitor the fire hazard risk in their area with online tools like Ontario's Forest Fire Info Map or the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System, or create their own program.

Monitor for smoke & air quality

- Knowing when smoke is predicted to reach your community (smoke forecasting) can allow time to put health actions in place.
- Track wildfire smoke with online tools like FireSmoke Canada or Canada's Wildfire Smoke Prediction System (FireWork).
- Identify those in the community most vulnerable to poor air quality (Elders, those with asthma, etc.).
- When air quality is poor or predicted to become poor, communities can: inform community members, set up clean air spaces, evacuate vulnerable people, etc.

Prevent human-caused fires



- Raise awareness of human-caused fires and how they can be prevented on the land and in the community.

Manage trees & plants



- Managing trees and plants can help keep wildfires out of your community. This could include: fireguards, thinning trees, encouraging growth of deciduous trees, clearing dead material and controlled burning.



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*Adaptations vary in scale (small to large), focus (individual to community) & cost (low to high). Find what works for you and your community.