

COMMUNITY FIRE RESILIENCE

Activity Book
for Children



Acknowledgements



This handbook is part of the research project **Building Climate Resilience in Rural & Remote Communities**. The project is centred around collaborations that bridge climate strategies and policies in British Columbia with Indigenous and community-driven expertise. It focuses on low-carbon resilience in housing, technical systems, and community planning.



Building Climate Resilience in Rural & Remote Communities is funded through the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS).

Learn more about PICS and its work at climatesolutions.ca.



As a step towards Indigenous self-governance, the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) delivers housing and infrastructure programs for First Nations in British Columbia. They provide comprehensive services that promote self-determination, organizational growth, and transformation, ensuring that no First Nation is left behind.

The project team would also like to thank the following people for their guidance and support in completing this project:

- The many attendees of our webinar series and focus groups, who saw this project come into reality and offered feedback along the way.
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The Fire Resilient Communities Handbook would not be the tool that it is today without the contributions, kindness, and expertise of those who collaborated and contributed to this project. Thank you.

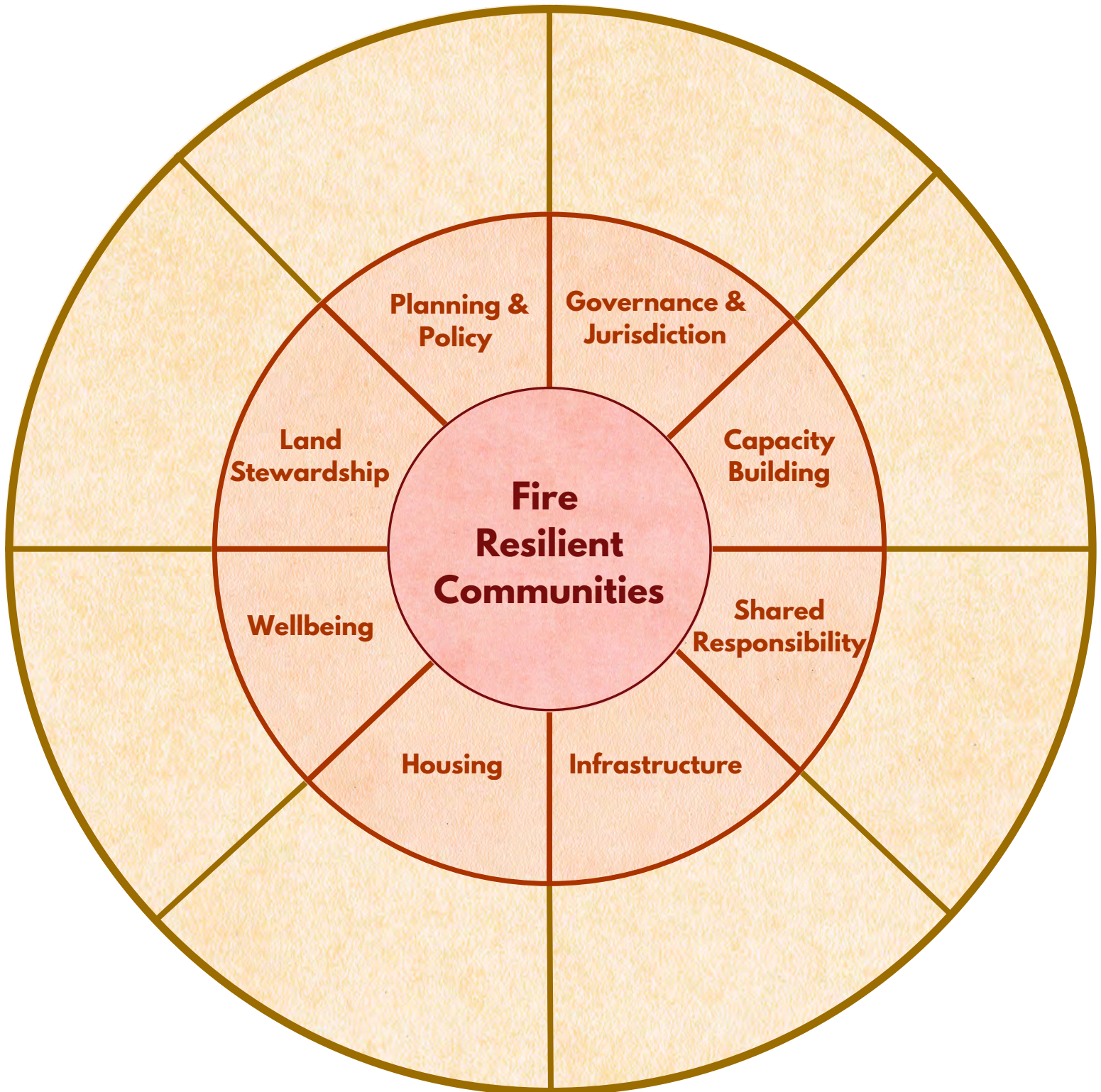
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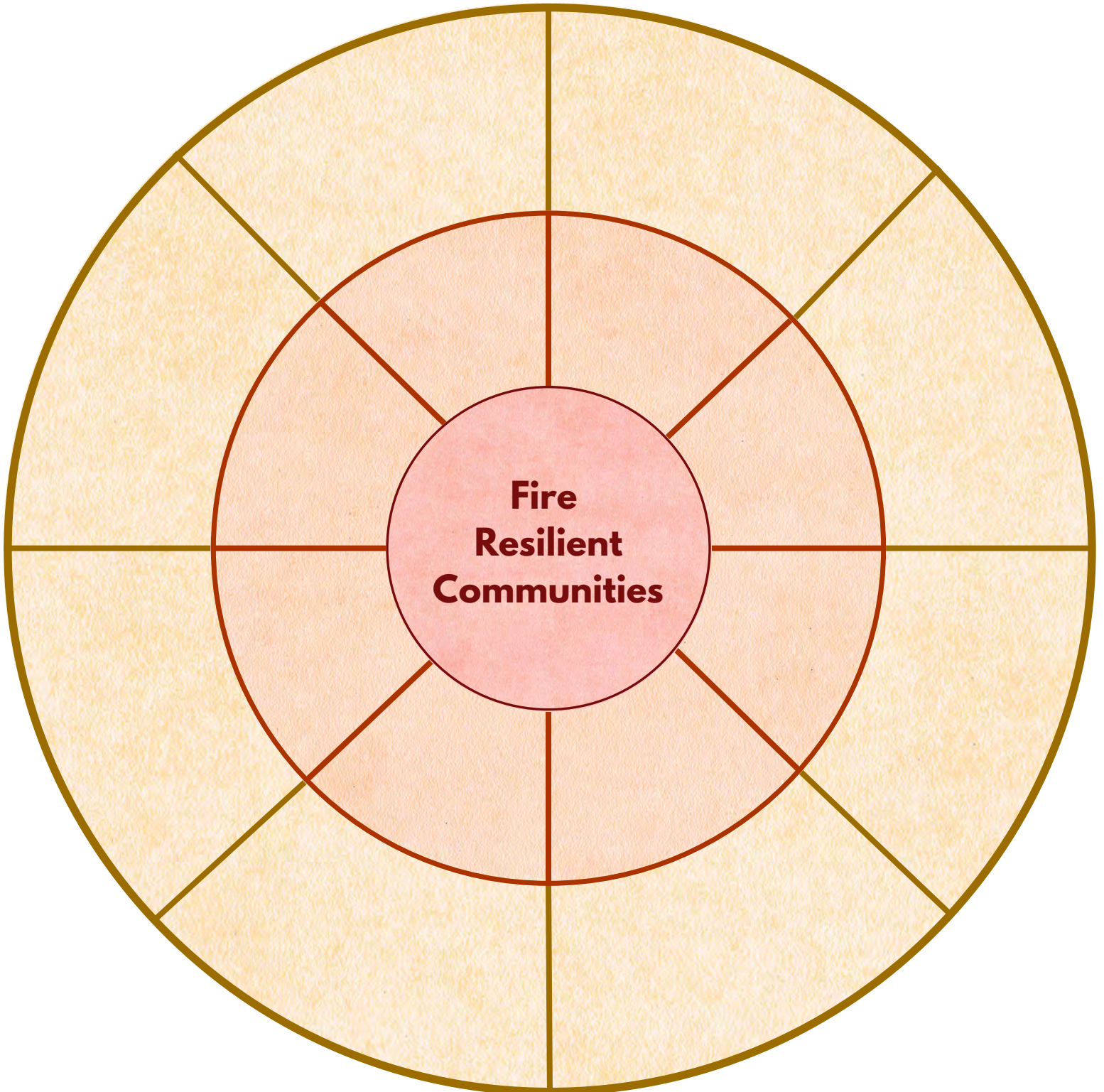
Community resilience includes practices that are embedded into many aspects of community life, governance, and planning. As a result, community resilience is interwoven with other risks, concerns, and the wellbeing of the community. The Fire Resilience Wheel aims to capture these related topics.



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Community resilience includes practices that are embedded into many aspects of community life, governance, and planning. As a result, community resilience is interwoven with other risks, concerns, and the wellbeing of the community. Try filling out your community's values and priorities in this blank wheel.



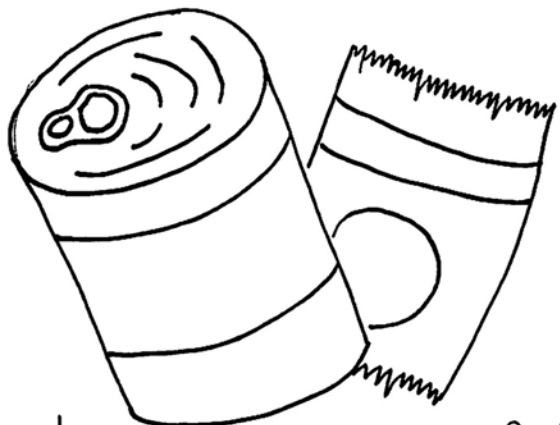


FIRE SAFETY: KEY CONTACTS

Role	Name	Contact Information
Local emergency service		
Non-emergency fire service		
Urgent health service		
Trusted Adult*		
Trusted Adult		
Trusted Adult		

*A trusted adult might be a family member, close friend, community elder, teacher, or anyone else you would feel safe and able to contact in an urgent situation.

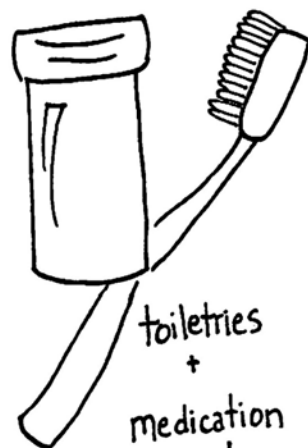
GO BAGS



3-7 days of non-perishable food



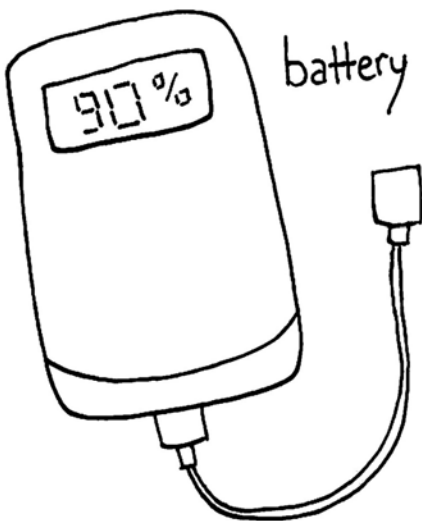
4L of water / person



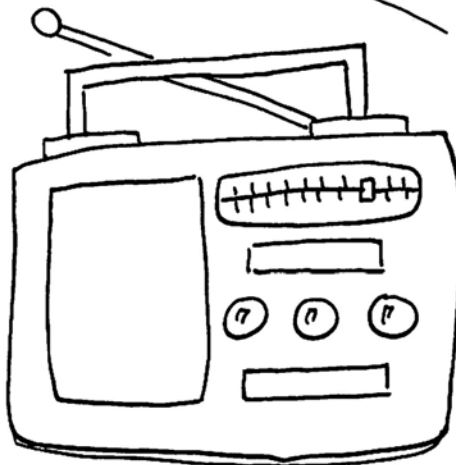
toiletries + medication



flashlight



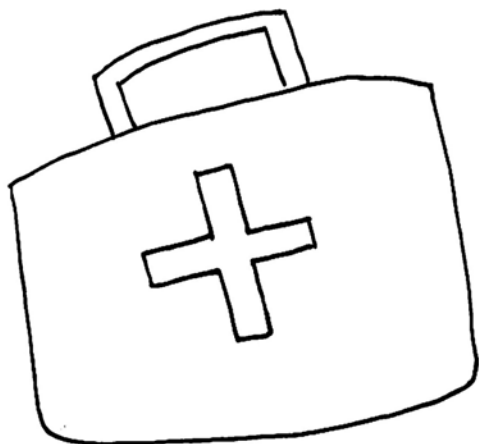
battery



radio



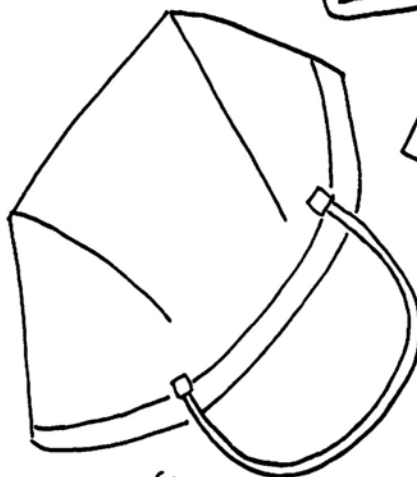
whistle



first aid kit



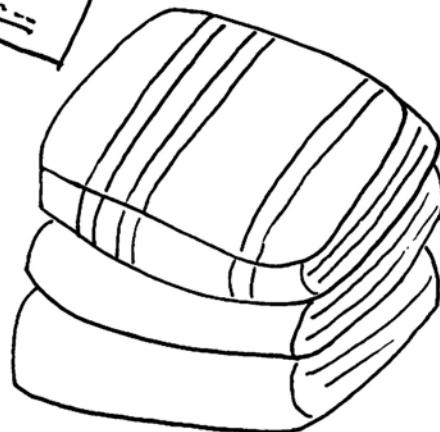
ID, insurance, plans, key contacts



masks (in case of smoke / dust)



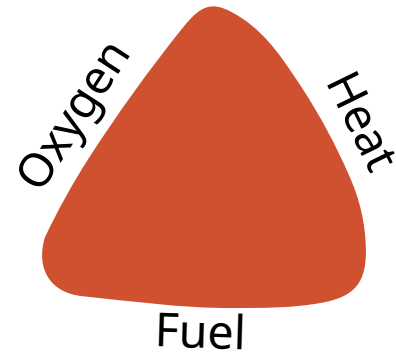
blankets



Fire Primer: How do fires spread?

Understanding fire behaviour is the first step in preventing its spread. When forest fires reach residential areas, they become *interface fires*. Mitigating the spread of interface fires requires community planning, home and yard maintenance, and following FireSmart™ practices.

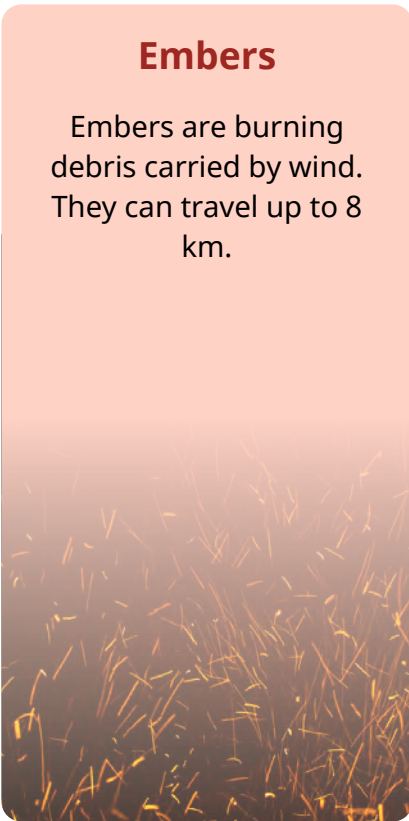
Fire Triangle: Fire requires fuel, heat, and oxygen to start and spread. By clearing surface fuels throughout communities and ladder fuels against structures, the spread of interface fires can be mitigated. Fuels include anything that could catch fire: vegetation, firewood, wood chips, leaf piles, fuel tanks, and trees are all examples of fuels.



There are three ways fires spread:

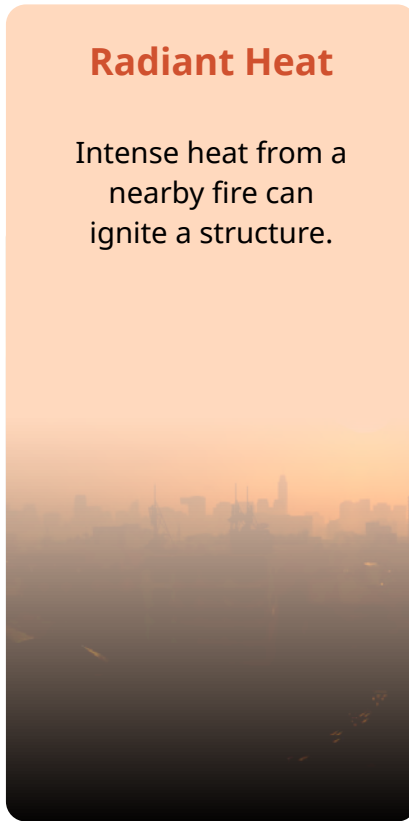
Embers

Embers are burning debris carried by wind. They can travel up to 8 km.



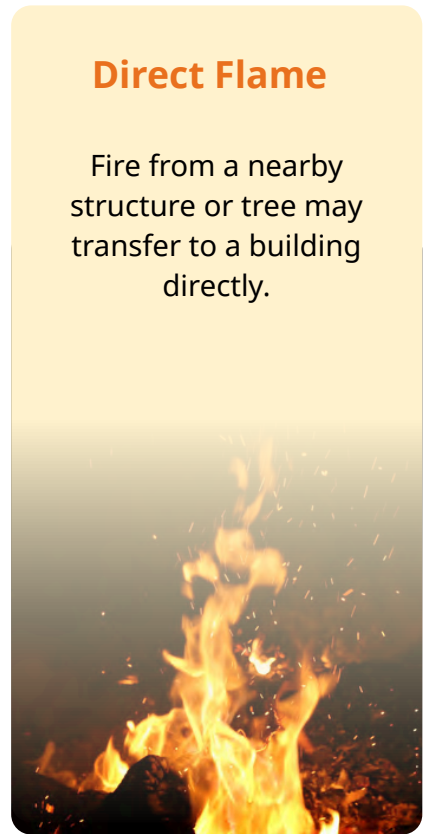
Radiant Heat

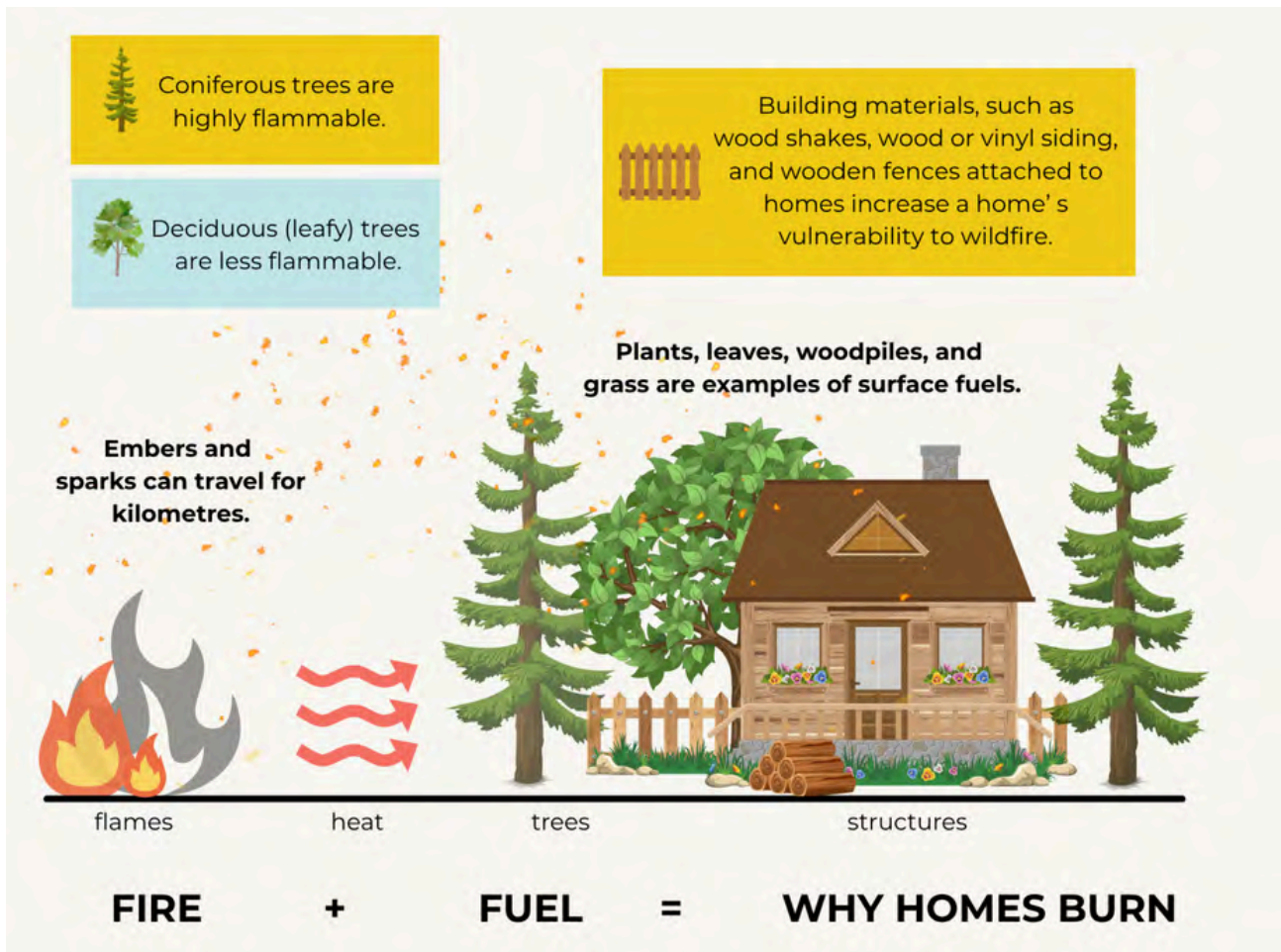
Intense heat from a nearby fire can ignite a structure.



Direct Flame

Fire from a nearby structure or tree may transfer to a building directly.





Fires can spread due to trees, surface fuels, and structures made of flammable building materials. Graphic made by Alexandria Jones (FireSmart™ Canada).

Why does the fire triangle matter?

In many rural households, it's common practice to store firewood against the exterior wall of the home. This can pose a fire risk because the combination of the wood (fuel) and gaps between logs (space for oxygen) can quickly ignite if an ember from a fire, even just a small campfire, falls into the gap. Decks with wooden boards with a >3mm gap pose a similar hazard, especially if leaves and other dry matter that could fuel a fire are underneath the deck.

The other recommendations to mitigate fire spread in the following section also aim to minimise the potential of embers becoming larger, dangerous fires.



Home Ignition Zones

Careful planning and maintenance for each zone can improve your home's resilience to fire and mitigate spread. This section provides some suggestions of important tasks to maintain fire safety in each zone. Additional recommendations are provided in the [FireSmart Begins at Home Guide](#).



Immediate: 0 - 1.5m

Priority: reduce the chance of ignition if an ember lands near your home by reducing fuel sources.

- Clear debris. Nothing should be stored against the house.
- Roofs and gutter cleaned and equipped with <3mm mesh.
- Chimneys equipped with spark arrestors.
- Decks cleared and free of gaps.

Intermediate: 1.5 - 10m

Priority: manage the area to mitigate the risk of fire transmission to the home.

- Lawns mowed shorter than 10 cm.
- Foliage and trees tended from overgrowth.
- Fire resistant foliage and trees when possible.
- No placement of fuel tanks, firewood, or fire pits.

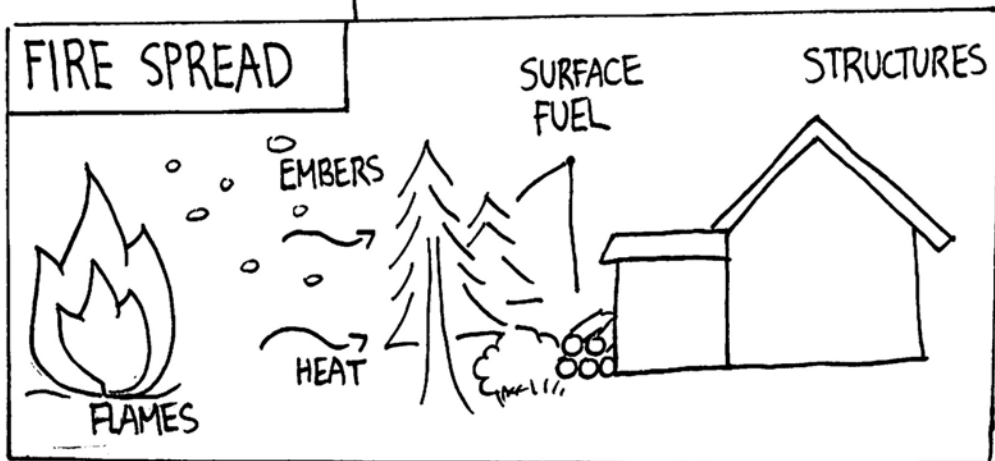
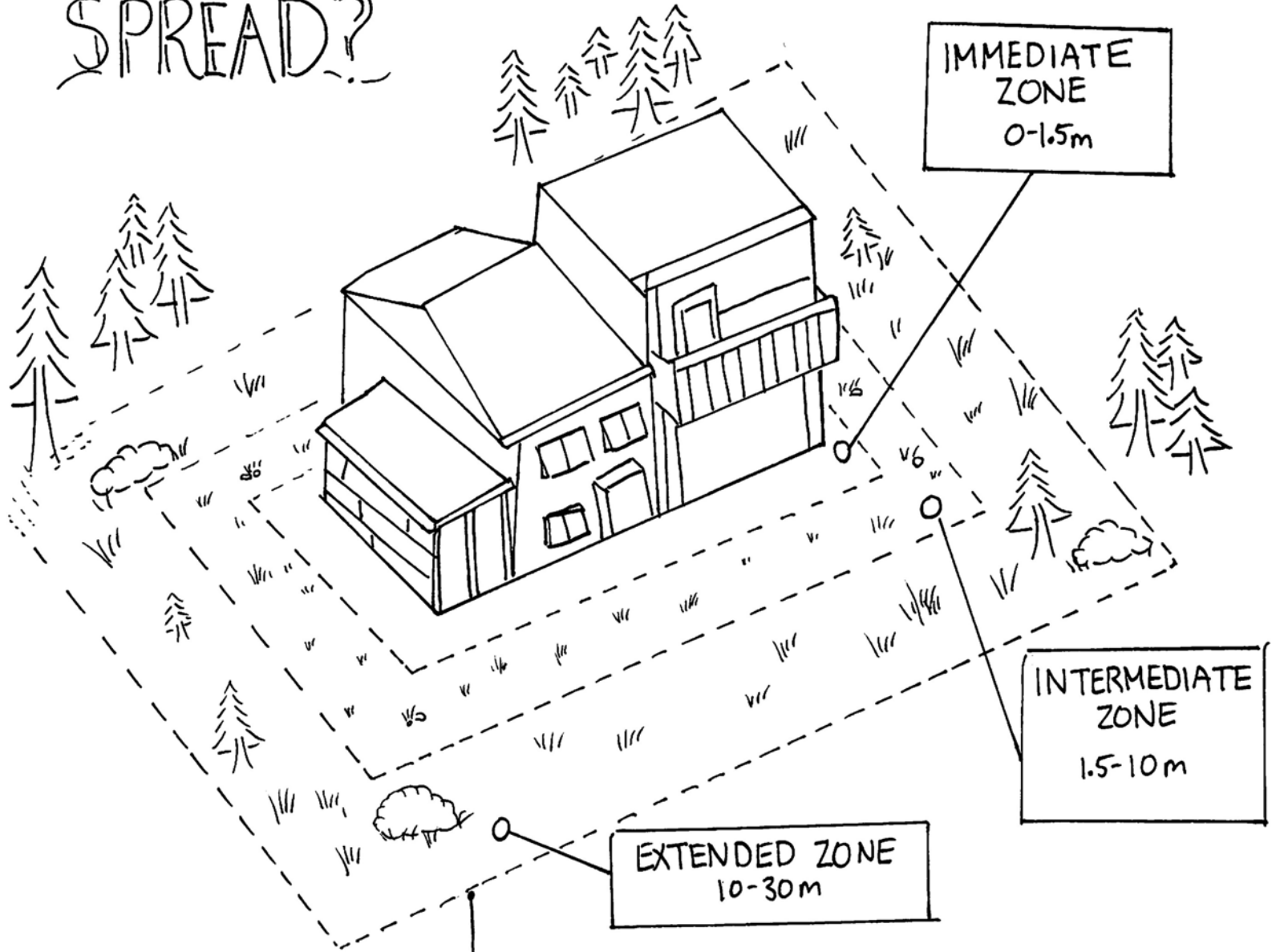
Extended: 10 -30m

Priority: reduce the intensity of any potential fires.

- Trees pruned and thinned from the bottom up.
- Space trees at least 3 m apart.
- Ensure safe and visible exits for emergency services.
- Plan collaboratively with neighbours to steward shared extended zones.

HOW DOES FIRE SPREAD?

- HOME IGNITION ZONES

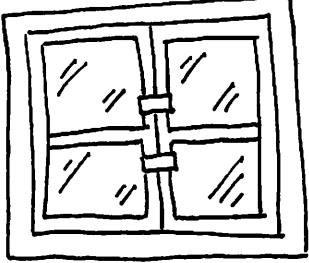


Graphics adapted from FireSmart Canada

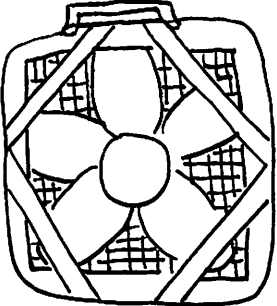
WHAT TO DO WHEN THE AIR IS SMOKY



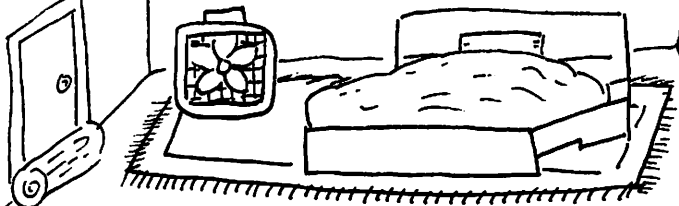
monitor
air quality
in the
area



close
windows
and
doors



make an air filter...



and use it in a 'clean air' room!



wear an N95 or
K95 mask if
you need to
go outside