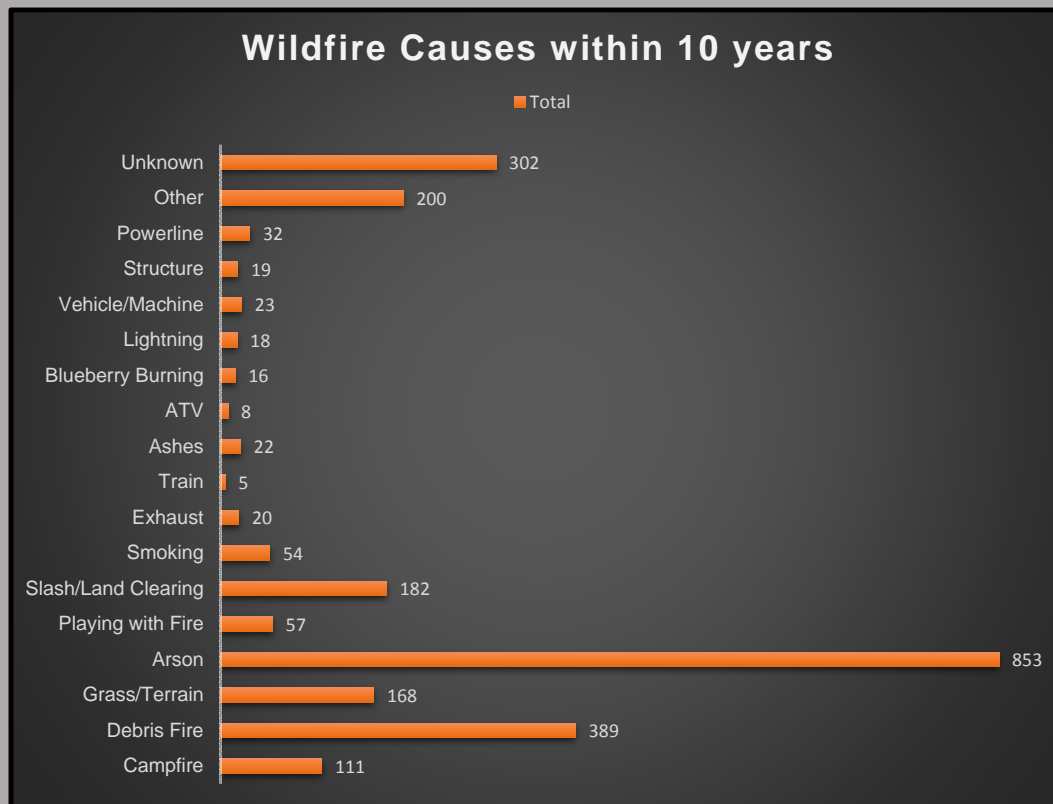


Westwood Hills & Area – Upper
Tantallon

Preparing Your Home & Community for Wildfire



Provincial Fire Statistics



- 99.5% of Wildfires in Nova Scotia are caused by humans
- #1 Cause is Arson related/Intentional lighting of Wildfires
- #2 Cause is Residential Burning, trash burning or grass burning
- # 3 CAMPFIRES – Left unattended

Why are wildfires increasing in Numbers & Severity?

- Fire Suppression efforts – Meaning fire is not a natural part of landscaping anymore
- Decrease in private woodlot management – 70% of the province is Privately owned – less control on fuel load
- Increase in Wildland Urban Interface – Homes nestled in the forests
- Denser more flammable forests – More fuels available because of the top three reasons
- Hotter & Drier – Climate change is changing the odds of fire with higher temperatures lower RH, frequency & higher wind speeds



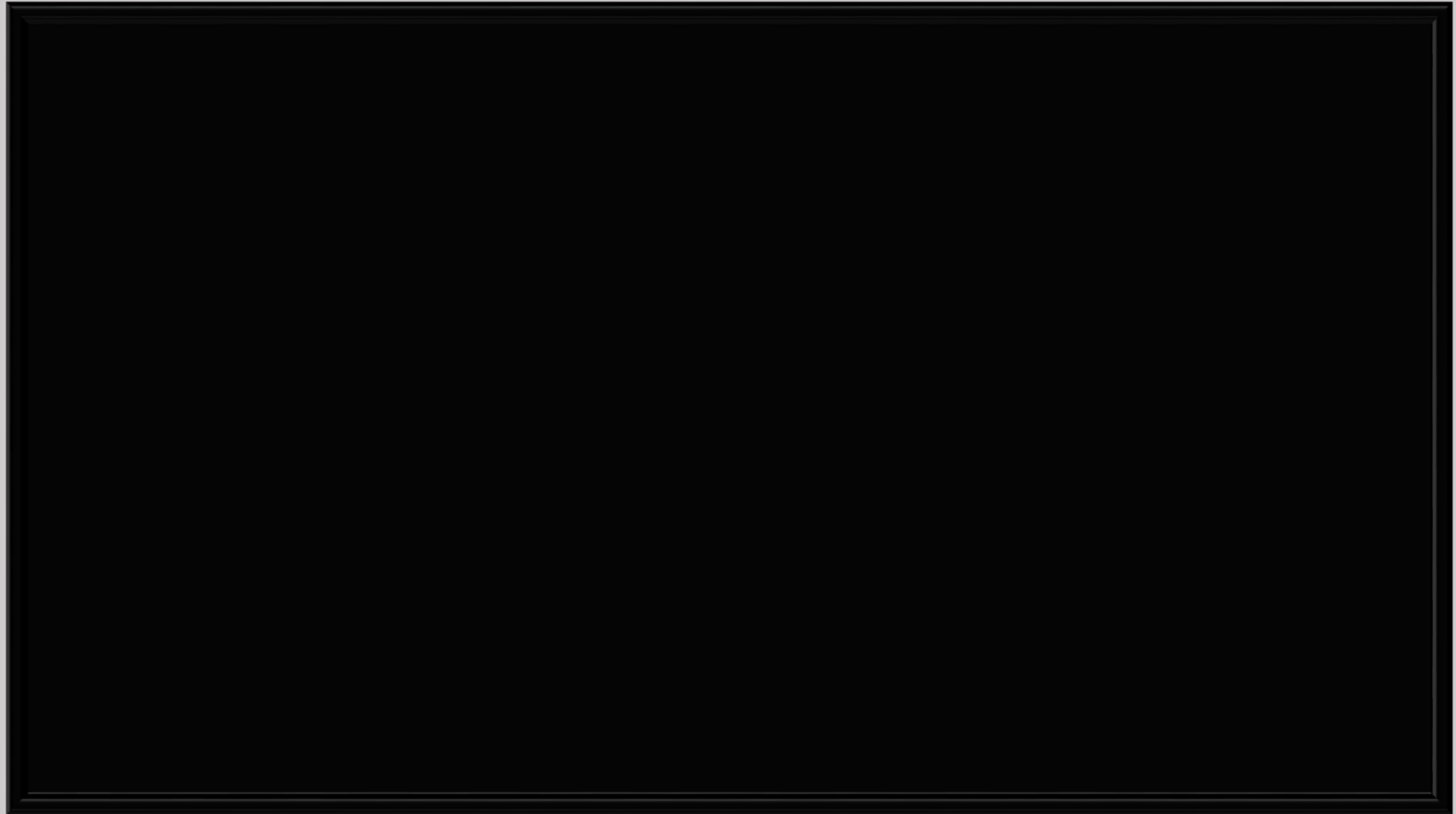
Seven Fire Smart Disciplines

- 1. Vegetation Management
- 2. Development
- 3. Public Education
- 4. Legislation
- 5. Interagency Cooperation
- 6. Cross Training
- 7. Emergency Planning



What is the Wildland Urban Interface Fire

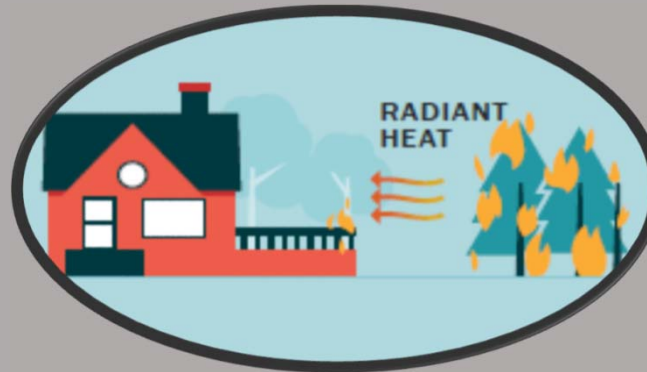
Where homes and businesses are built among trees and other combustible vegetation.



How wildfire threaten Urban Interface

Sparks & Embers

Carried in smoke & winds ahead of the fire, igniting materials on or near your home causing severe damage.



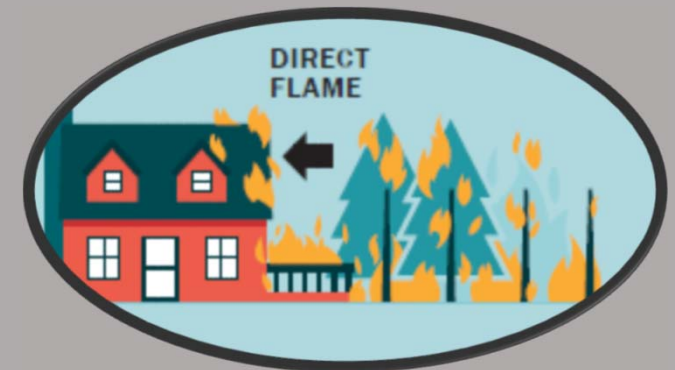
Direct Flame

With trees, outdoor structures, furniture's, etc. within 10m of the home they create direct flame contact – creating a safe zone with 10m is key.

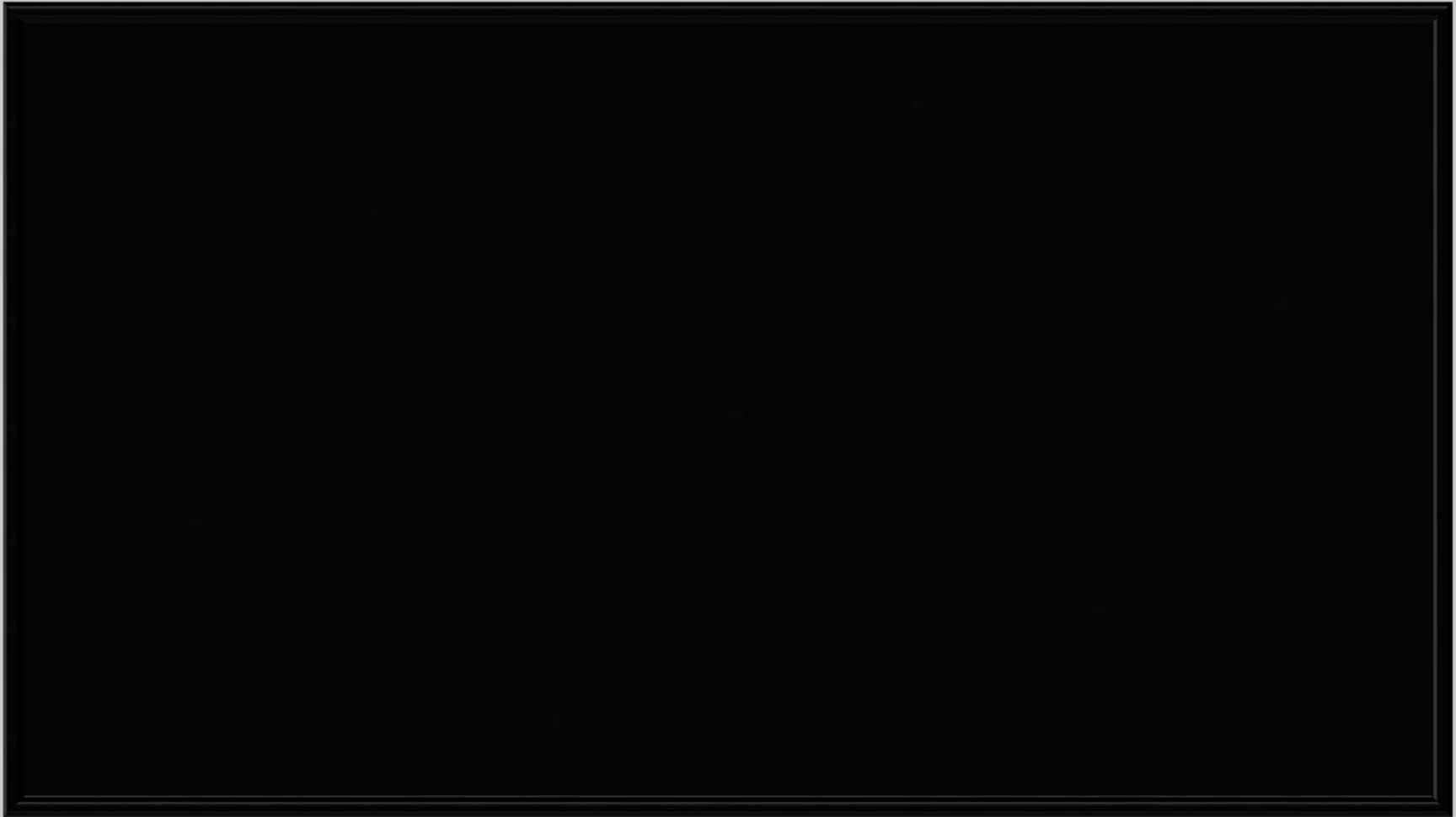


Extreme Heat Transfer

Wildfires preheat fuels ahead of them, creating a quick ignition of fuels, melting siding, breaking windows.



How does wildfire threaten Urban Interface



How Wildfire threatens Urban Interface

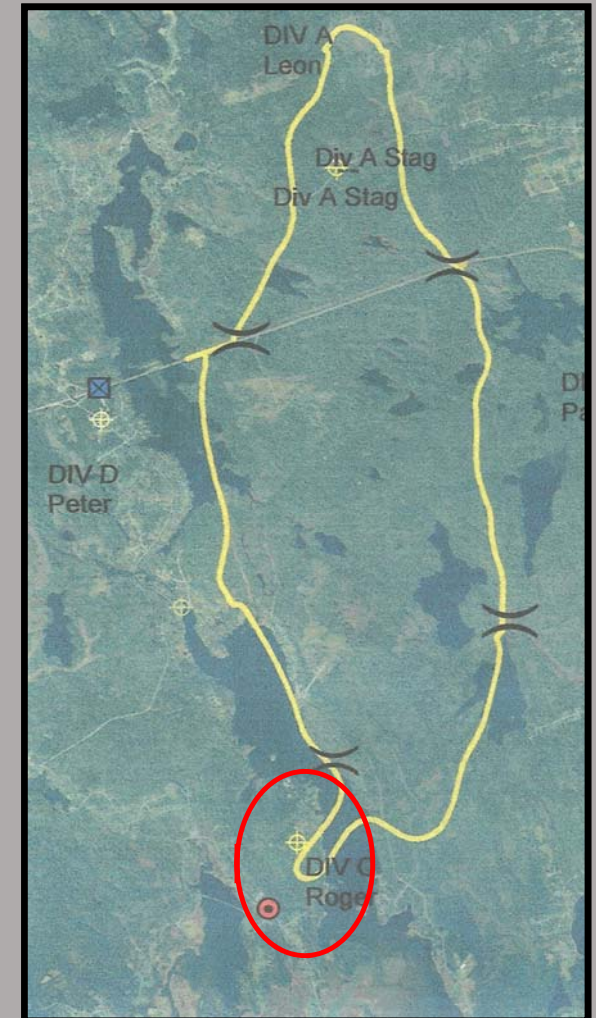
Tree Density & Type –
Softwoods
vs
Hardwoods



Tree to
Tree
Ignition

Fine fuels
generate
heat &
Embers

Ladder Fuels
– Fire
transfers
from surface
to crowns



What a Fire Smart Community Can do

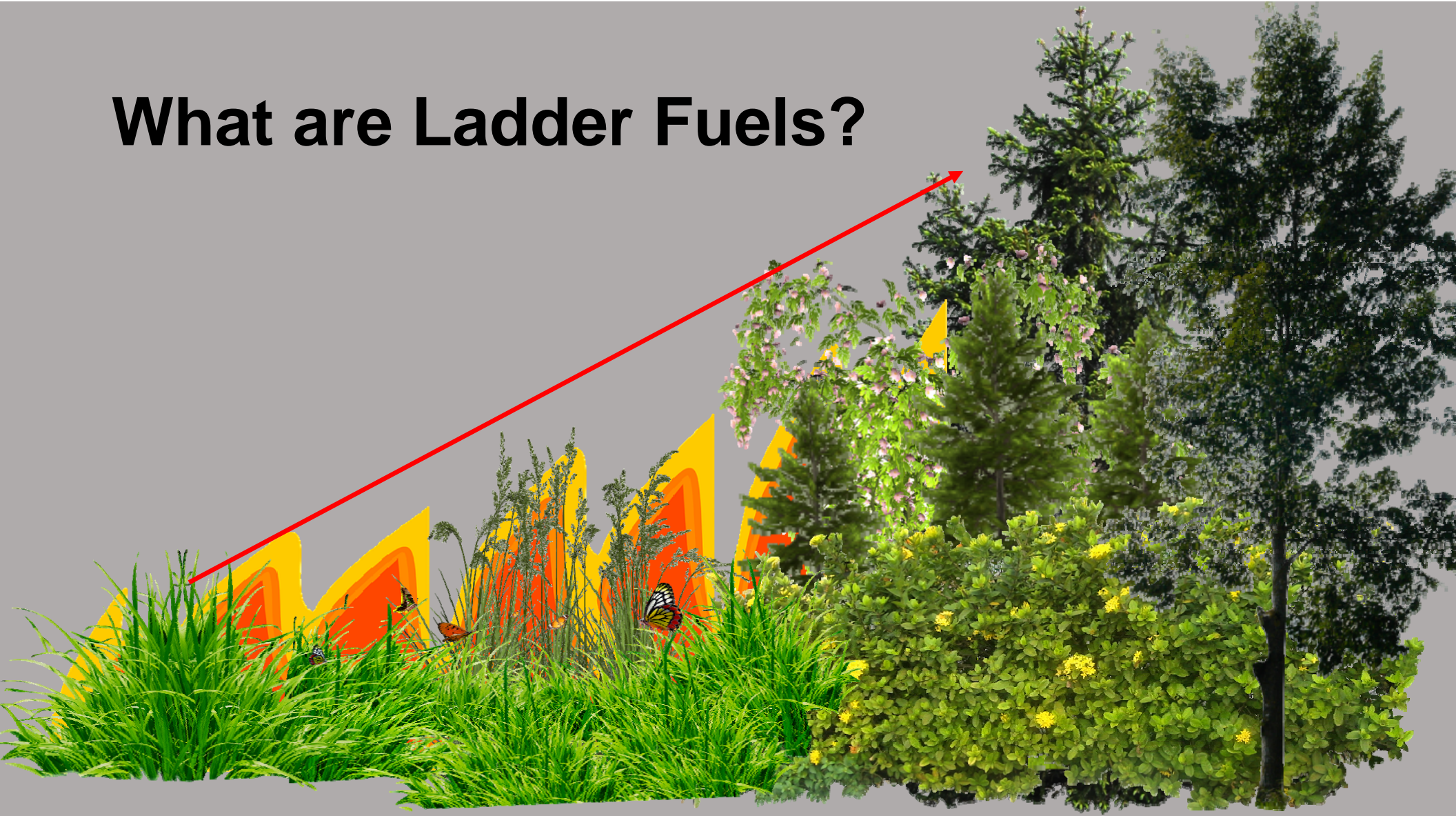


Fire resistive landscaping, fire resistive building materials, no firewood or debris, tall grass or trees/shrubs near home, fire resistive building materials, homes spaced apart

Removing dead and dying trees, pruning trees and thinning trees, leaving a mix of hardwood/softwood and ladder fuels

Creating buffers, patches of hardwood, field, removing dead/dying, and reducing fine fuels/dense forests

What are Ladder Fuels?



Fire Smart Communities - What you can do?

EXTERIOR OF HOMES

- Removing dead & diseased trees within 30m of home
- Thinning trees (8ft apart/pruned 8ft up)
- Not using bark mulch around foundation
- Covering over underside of decking to avoid leaf accumulation
- Putting away lawn furniture when not in use
- Storing firewood away from home
- Mowing grass up to structures
- Storing fuels/propane away from home
- Removing ladder fuels and creating fuel breaks
- Using fire resistive species in Landscaping

Home burned because of Fire Embers in gutter



Home survived because of building material – decking may not of burned if lawn furniture was put away

Dead or dying forests

- Disease or insect ridden trees
- Wind/Hurricane Damaged
- Drought killed
- Aged – natural

All of these create ideal conditions for wildfire behavior spread and intensity



Thinned & Pruned Forests

- Increases Timber value – better growth
- Decreases insect spread and disease
- Decreases fire spread into crowns
- Increases forest stand diversity which brings more wildlife

Not thinned/pruned forests

- Decrease forest health
- Increase risk of insect/disease
- Increase fire spread in to crowns with ladder fuels



Fire Smart Communities - Increases Home Survivability



Home burned because of Bark mulch in flower beds, Which caught siding on fire.

- Covered in Soffits
- Asphalt or Metal roofing
- Log/metal or brick style homes
- Double paned windows/glazing
- Fire resistive decking
- Vents and Openings that are closable
- Having an onsite fire suppression system (Sprinklers)

Fire Smart Communities – Can reduce the amount of community members evacuated



- Fire Smart initiatives are great for individual homes but more effective as a whole community.
- Number #1 reason people won't evacuate – PETS/LIVESTOCK (DARTNS)
- Having an effective plan for the evacuation
- Public information is key to keeping residents calm and informed on their possessions

Fire Landscaping

- Plants that contain a high water content & require little water
- Plants and shrubs that do not shed high amounts of woody limbs
- Plants that don't have lots of dry leaves that accumulate if not cleaned up
- Pruning, removing dead branches, and cleaning leaves in gardens is key



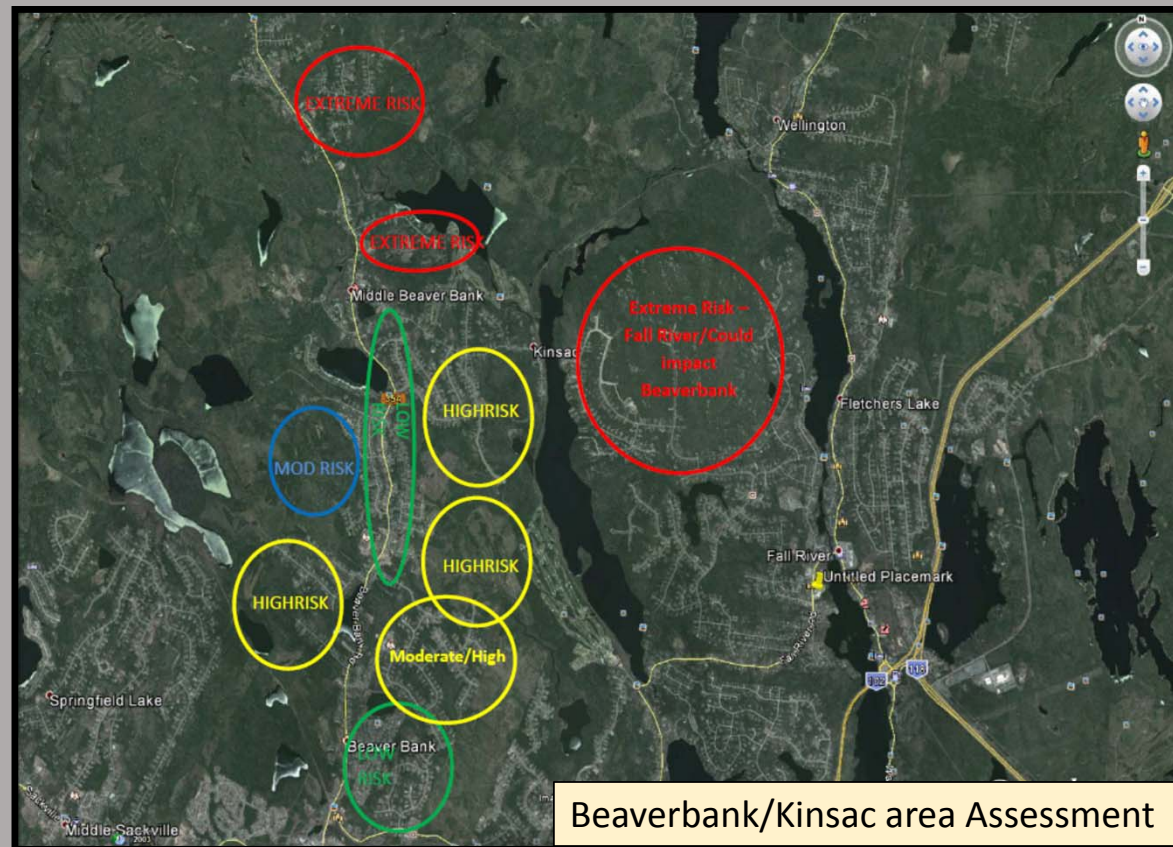
These are also a type of fuel in a Wildfire

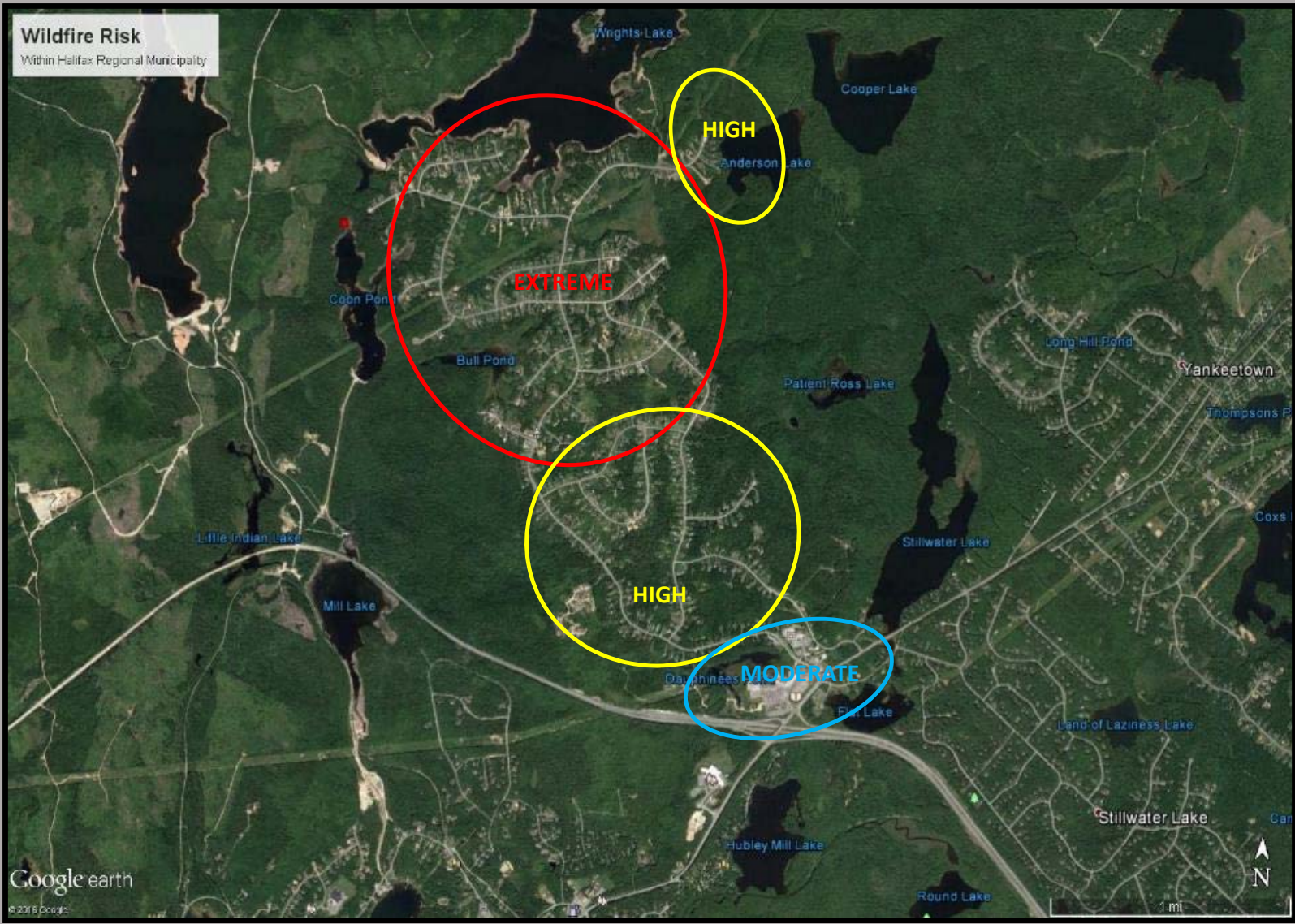
Consider this a
Dense forest,
With a lot of
Combustibles =
More available
Fuel and more
Extreme fire
behaviour



Fire Smart Communities - Planning – Increases appropriate response and responding agencies

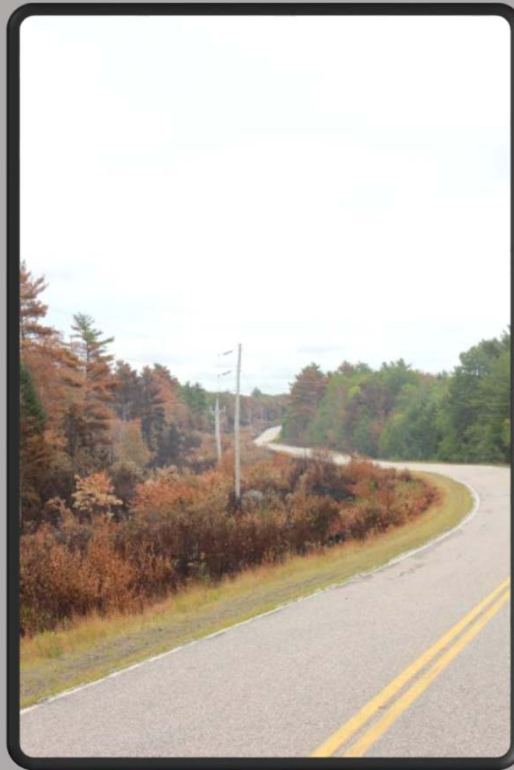
- Knowing which subdivision in the vicinity are Low, Moderate, High and Extreme risk
- Knowing where to focus resources – key infrastructure
- Evacuation routes
- Preparing residents with the 72 hour preparedness program
- Having a plan in place for pets and livestock





Westwood Hills & Area

Fire Smart Communities - Planning – Increases appropriate response and responding agencies



- Teaching residents to reduce risk around their own homes
- Getting the entire community involved – Makes a safer community, recognition and Fire Smart designation
- Cross training with other agencies
- Sharing resources – weather data, mapping, training etc.

What Natural Resources helps with

- Natural resources has planning and risk management of forest health
- forestry operations -Buffers, woodlot diversity, thinning's, planting species resistive
- road building/maintenance on crown
- training and services in the realm of wildfire suppression
- Fire Equipment Maintenance
- Fire Prevention Initiatives
- Fire Suppression





Why we need Multiple Agencies

- Developers/Building Planners – Community layout/design and construction
- Landscape Contractors – Bark Mulch/Fire Resistive Species
- Insurance Companies – Incentives/Premiums for work done
- Elected Officials – Bylaws, building codes, ordinances
- Home owners – Ignoring risk factors not taking action

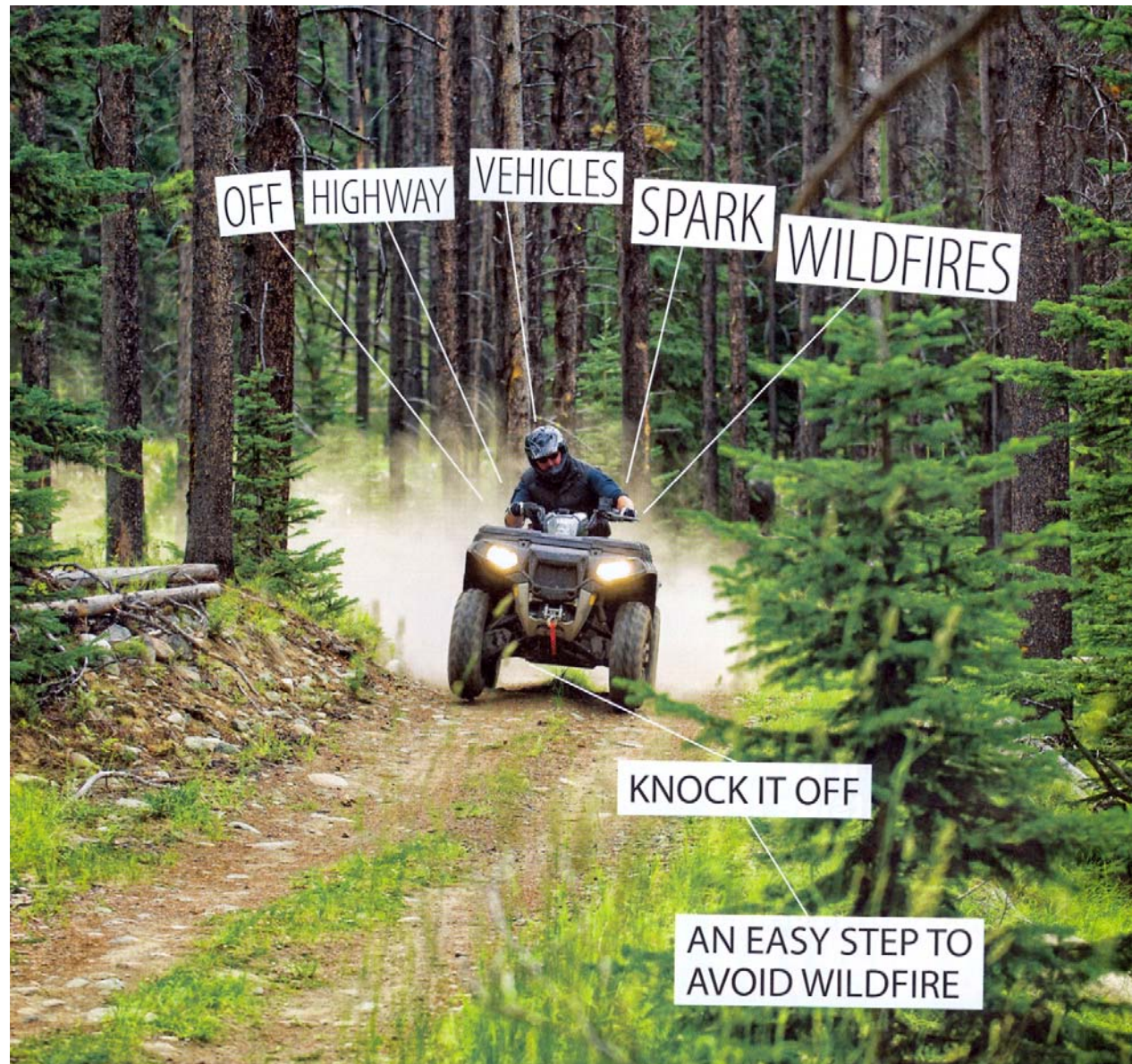
Where do we start?

- **Protect our Own Homes! – Do the test and fix what you can**
- **Community Plan for such events – Take the community test and see where you need assistance**
- **Work with local agencies, fire service, municipality in making sure they/you have plan in place for those areas you fall short.**



What to do prior to Extreme Fire Risk

- Make sure yard is clean and tidy
- That all lawn furniture is put away during extremely dry conditions when not home
- Make sure your insurance covers events such as wildfire and evacuations
- Have 72hr preparedness kit for your family and pet
- Valuables and important documents are in a fire safe including photos of your belongings
- Back your vehicle in your driveway for a quick escape



What to do if Evacuated?

- Fire evacuations are initiated by Local fire chief or RCMP, and then EMO notified.
- Grab you preparedness kits, fire safe if small
- Turn off Natural Gas, Propane, and store gas/propane away from home
- Turn off Venmar ventilation
- Close all windows/doors
- Leave outside light on house
- If you have a sprinkler system for exterior throw it on



When you call 911 – Where does it go??

- 911 calls in Grass, brush or Wildfires are passed onto the Dispatch (Radio Room) and then Provincial Fire Center
- The Fire center will assess situation, dispatch the appropriate DNR Office (24 Offices)
- We then monitor the radio channel to see if additional resources are required.
- We monitor the entire provinces wildfire situations



Domestic brush burning and campfires
Restrictions apply March 15 to October 15

No burning between 8am and 2pm
Restrictions are set at 2pm daily

Check the online **BURNING RESTRICTIONS MAP** at novascotia.ca/burnsafe

Map is updated daily to show where burning is:

ALLOWED between 2pm and 8am (GREEN areas)	ALLOWED only at certain times (YELLOW areas)	NOT ALLOWED (campfires and brush burning) for your safety (RED areas)
--------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Please note: Check municipal bylaws first.

Save your brush over summer to burn in winter when wildfire risk is low.

Burning restrictions apply to: domestic brush and campfires. A PERMIT IS STILL REQUIRED if burning is for: industrial land clearing, agriculture, building construction, blueberry crops. See local DNR office.

NOVA SCOTIA

When can I burn? Check novascotia.ca/BurnSafe or 1-855-564-2876 (BURN) for daily burning restrictions

What else we cover

- Daily fire weather danger ratings and burn restrictions
- Daily Fire behavior warnings – Forecasting and planning
- Daily Aerial Detection flights and aircraft alerts
- Daily reports to the USA and Canada on provincial Fire Situation
- Monitor and alert Communications NS of aircraft movement and media relations
- Media Interviews
- Weekly reports to upper management on fire situation
- Allocate and coordinate large request orders provincially and for export across Canada



More Prevention Tips

- Follow the burn restrictions at [1-855-564-2876](tel:1-855-564-2876) or novascotia.ca/burnsafe/
- Report any illegal activity or wildfires to [911](tel:911) or [1-800-565-2224](tel:1-800-565-2224)
- Brush Burning small piles, and campfires on calm days, away from structures or tall grass
- Don't dispose of ashes in compost bins, tall grass
- Don't weld or park vehicles in tall grass
- Don't set off fireworks during dry conditions
- Dispose of smokes in ash tray or water
- Clean ATV's, Chainsaws, mowers and other equipment regularly
- Don't burn grass – It does more harm than help
- ALWAYS supervise and soak any burning activities prior to leaving.



Thank-You & Questions?

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(902)758-7232 (Office)
Email: kara.mccurdy@novascotia.ca

**For more resources on how to protect your home
and community visit www.firesmartcanada.ca**

Or drop me an email for electronic copies of data