



FAQ: Lillooet and SLRD Electoral Areas A, B, & C FireSmart™ 65+ Program

February 24, 2022

**This document will be updated as required*

1. What is this program all about? The SLRD and District of Lillooet are working together to provide FireSmart property assessments and work to eligible homeowners 65+ in Lillooet and Electoral Areas A, B and C of the SLRD.

2. Who is eligible for this program? To qualify, homeowners must be aged 65 or older, and the property must be located in the District of Lillooet, or Electoral Area A, B or C of the SLRD, and it must be the property owner's primary residence.

3. How can I apply? Homeowners register for a FireSmart Home Ignition Zone Assessment by emailing the SLRD at firesmart@slrd.bc.ca or by calling (604) 894-6371 extension 262. We will schedule a time to send the Local FireSmart Representative (LFR) who is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF), to assess the wildfire hazards around your home. The Home Ignition Zone Assessment identifies recommended work to improve the wildfire resiliency of your property. Following that, and with your agreement, we will schedule a time for a crew to complete the work, and conduct a follow-up assessment. All of this is at no cost to the homeowner, as it is covered by the funding the SLRD has received for the project.

4. Who will come to my house to do the FireSmart home assessment? We have contracted a Local FireSmart Representative (LFR) who is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) to complete the home assessments. They are a Lillooet area local with extensive experience in community wildfire risk reduction and forest fuel mitigation projects.

5. I'm worried about scams. How do I know if the person who shows up is the authorized SLRD representative for this project? Our contractor will have identification available to confirm their identity will make an appointment for a specific time to be at your property will not require any access into your home, and at NO point will there be any request for deposits, cash advances or any other type of request for money from you. If any suspicious approach is made to you by phone or someone knocking on your door saying that they are part of this FireSmart program and asking for money or access to your home or threatening a penalty for not participating, please let the SLRD and the RCMP know immediately.

6. Does the FireSmart representative come into my house during the home assessment? No, everything is done outside. We look at the exterior of your home, decks, yard and surrounding area.

7. Do I have to be home for the FireSmart home assessment? No, but it is preferable for you to be there. It's a great learning experience for the homeowner, and it helps the LFR understand exactly what work you would like to have done.

8. When will the FireSmart home assessments and vegetation removal be scheduled?

Our goal is to have all Home Ignition Zone Assessment completed by early Spring (mid-April) and all vegetation removal work done before June.

9. Can I apply for this any time? No, this is a limited-time opportunity. While the SLRD has FireSmart initiatives each year, this opportunity to do all the work at no cost to the homeowner is only available for this project and for a limited time and within the total amount of funding that we have available. We are expecting a strong uptake of the opportunity so we encourage anyone interested to contact us as soon as possible to discuss a time for the FireSmart home assessment.

10. What services are being offered? We will tailor the services to the needs of your property and what you would like to have done within the scope of eligible FireSmart activities. The LFR will suggest work to be done based on the FireSmart assessment and you can choose what you'd like the crews to work on. Some examples are removing accumulations of sticks and leaves, pruning trees, cleaning roofs and gutters of leaves and needles, removing flammable vegetation, moving firewood or lumber, and removing trees (consistent with applicable local tree removal bylaws).

11. Can I say no to the recommended actions? Yes! You are not required to have any of the recommended work done. We understand that trees and vegetation have a lot of value and it is always up to you whether you'd like to proceed with the recommended actions. This is a rare opportunity to have the work completed at no cost to the homeowner, so we do encourage everyone who is eligible to take advantage of the opportunity to reduce their fire risk.

12. Will the FireSmart home assessment affect my insurance one way or the other? No. FireSmart work is not currently tied to any insurance premium discounts. The home assessments are also protected under the standards for information and documentation that local governments are bound by, and are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, so the SLRD cannot share the home assessments with third parties such as insurance companies. The home assessments need to be available to our project funder (UBCM) for the purpose of substantiating the program expenditures. SLRD cannot share them outside of this purpose.

13. I am a renter. Can I participate in this program? No. At this time we can only offer this program to homeowners.

14. As a homeowner, can I apply the program to my rental house or cabin? No. At this time the offer is open to a homeowner's primary residence only.

15. Where can I learn more about FireSmart? Check out FireSmart BC's website here: www.firesmartbc.ca You can also follow FireSmart BC on Facebook.