

# Fire prevention tips



In Manitoba, there is an average of nearly 600 wildfires every year. Many threaten homes, businesses and farms in addition to the damage caused on the landscape. About half are caused by human activity.

All Manitobans can take steps to reduce the risk of starting or spreading wildfires. These include:

- checking current weather conditions and the risk level for wildfires, which are regularly posted fire situations reports at [Manitoba.ca/wildfire](http://Manitoba.ca/wildfire) and at many/all provincial park entrances;
- following all municipal and provincial orders related to burning permits, open-air fires and crop residue burning;
- locating fire pits and burn barrels away from the home and keeping them under constant supervision if used;
- using designated sites for campfires, when permitted, and ensuring they are fully extinguished;
- disposing of cigarettes and other materials safely, which includes using vehicle ashtrays instead of throwing out a window;
- avoiding the use of all-terrain vehicles in areas at risk, as they can ignite brush from their exhaust systems;
- checking farm and lawn equipment to ensure spark arresters are working properly;
- ensuring chimneys and gas fireplaces meet all applicable regulations and building code requirements, with regular inspections if appropriate;
- never setting off fireworks without the appropriate permit;
- reporting wildfires immediately to 1-800-782-0076 (toll-free); and
- reporting any information about arsons to the appropriate police agency.

All homes should have shovels, rakes, axes, garden hoses, sprinklers and ladders available to help suppress wildfires. The [Home Owner's FireSmart Manual](#) is also available to help Manitobans identify and reduce wildfire risks on their properties.

For more information about wildfire prevention, preparedness, fire situation reports and response, visit [www.manitoba.ca/wildfire/](http://www.manitoba.ca/wildfire/).

*Prepared with information available at [http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/prevent\\_wildfires.htm](http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/prevent_wildfires.htm), <http://www.winnipeg.ca/fps/FirePrevention/default.stm> and [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca).*