



WILDFIRE HAZARD
ASSESSMENT FOR 276 TAL
ROAD

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WILDFIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT FOR 276 TAL ROAD

Prepared for:

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Introduction

In accordance with the town of Lake Cowichan requirements, Maria Kyle retained Inwood Forestry Services Ltd. (Fraser Grey, RPF) to conduct a wildfire hazard assessment for a proposed house build at 276 Tal Rd.

Hazard Assessment

This report covers vegetation and terrain on and around the subject site and provides recommendations on how to reduce the risk of wildfire. Assessment criteria are based on the Home Ignition Zone Assessment by FireSmart Canada.

Field Inspection

Inwood Forestry Services Ltd. conducted a site visit on May 30, 2025 to assess the site and wildfire hazards. From the proposed build site, the extended zone (10-30m from proposed dwelling) was the focus of this inspection. This is based on criteria by FireSmart Canada (see figure 1).

Location and Description of Proposal Area

The property owner would like to build a house on a gentle slope with forested areas to the south and west.

The site of the proposed build is located in the Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) bio-geoclimatic zone. This zone is characterized by high annual precipitation, cool and wet winters with mild and relatively dry summers. It is characterized by mature second growth Western Hemlock, Big Leaf Maple, Douglas Fir, Alder and Cottonwood. The understorey is comprised of Dull Oregon Grape, Sword Fern, Bracken Fern, Cascara, Vanilla Leaf, Huckleberry, Salmonberry and a minor component of coniferous species.

Fire Hazard Assessment

Forest vegetation

Within a 10-30m radius of the proposed dwelling, the majority of vegetation was deciduous and did not have limbs below 2m in height.

Within the extended zone to the south and south-west, several small clumps of Western Hemlock did not meet specifications according to the FireSmart Canada recommendations to have crown spacing at least 3m apart as well as pruning branches 2m from the ground (see figure 2). Since these trees are within the riparian assessment area and removal is not ideal, it is recommended that these trees be pruned so that the limbs are 2m above the ground (See figure 3, 4 and 5). These trees are approximately 3-5m in height and are less than 15cm in diameter.

Within the extended zone to the west, lies a deciduous patch which is composed mostly of Red Alder. This area is considered low risk for wildfire hazard (see figure 6).

Although the tree canopy is not spaced 3m apart as recommended by FireSmart Canada, there are some breaks in the continuity which is beneficial should a wildfire reach into the canopy. With the lack of ladder fuels such as limbs below 2m, it is less likely that a wildfire would reach the tree canopy at this site. Also, due to the high component of deciduous trees within the vicinity of this site, the fire hazard risk is relatively low (see figure 7 for a list of high fire hazard risk tree species).

Surface vegetation

Most of the surface vegetation on this site has been removed to accommodate for the proposed dwelling. It is recommended, that any grass planted in the future be kept to a height of 10cm or less according to Firesmart Canada recommendations.

Woodpiles and other combustibles

During the site inspection, there were no woodpiles or combustibles found within a 10m perimeter of the proposed dwelling other than building materials.

Fire Hazard Abatement Recommendations

- Prune 2 patches of immature Western Hemlock to 2m above ground (see figures 3, 4 and 5)
- Maintain a 10m perimeter free of combustibles such as woodpiles and coniferous trees

Limitations

This report provides an assessment of site conditions based on field observation. Evaluation and results are based on professional judgment. Recommended treatment pertains only to the particular site as disclosed at the time of inspection. The report was prepared considering site-specific circumstances and conditions. It is intended only for use by the client for the purpose for which it was commissioned and for use by local government regulating the activities to which it pertains.

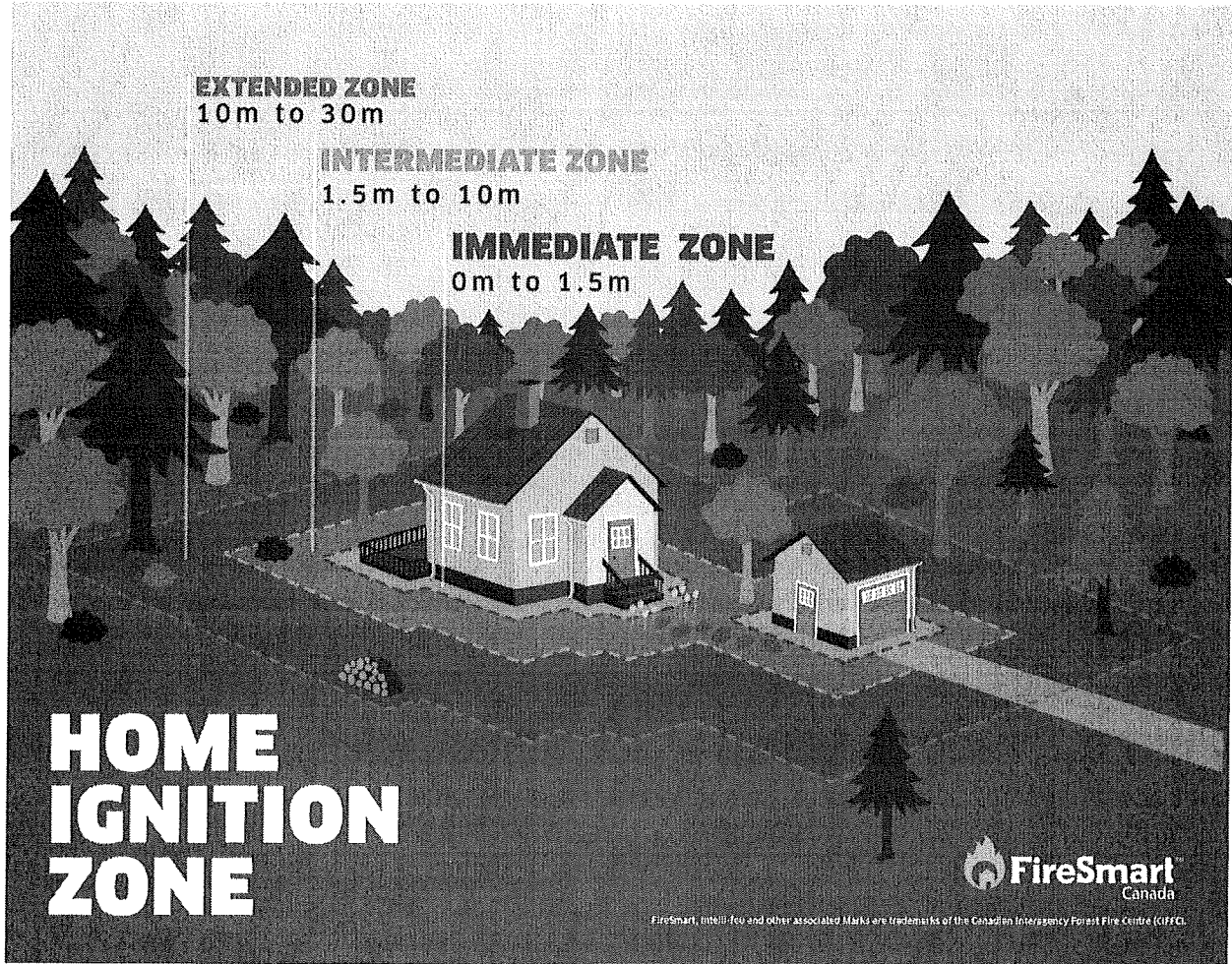
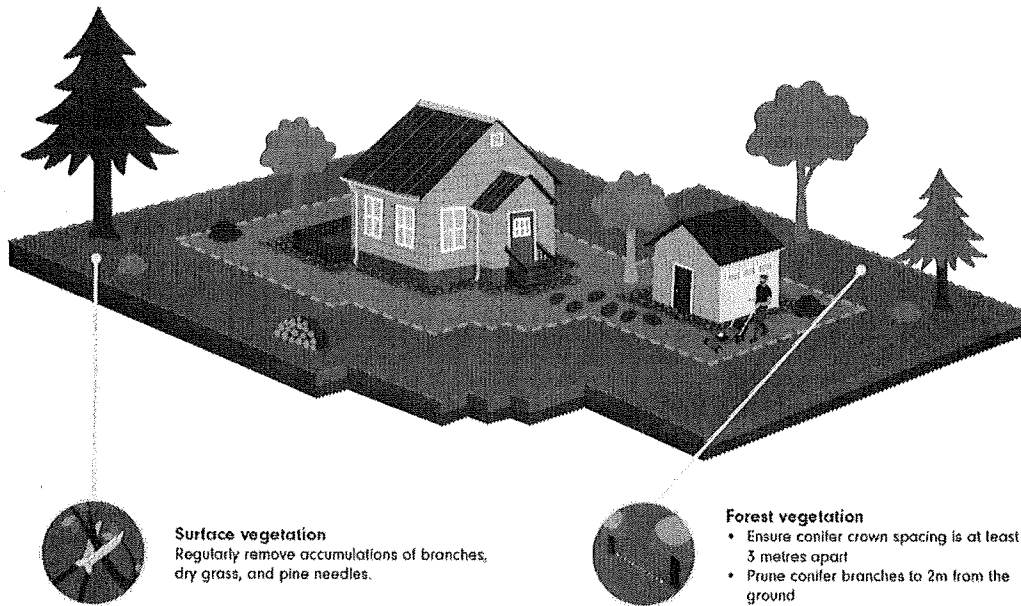


Figure 1: Home Ignition Zone Assessment from Firesmart Canada, showing Immediate, Intermediate and Extended zones.

● Extended Zone (10 - 30 metres)

The focus in the Extended Zone is not to eliminate the possibility of fire, but to reduce its intensity.



Note: FireSmart™ and associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC)

Figure 2: Extended zone recommendations according to FireSmart Canada.



Figure 3: Patch of Western Hemlock to be pruned at south end of lot.



Figure 4: Patch of Western Hemlock to be pruned at south-west corner of lot.



Figure 5: Deciduous area to the west of proposed dwelling.

Fire Hazard Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Risk Level	Leaf Type
Arborvitae (Cedar)	Thuja spp.	Highest Risk	C
Broom	Genista spp.	Highest Risk	B
Cedrus	Cedar spp.	Highest Risk	C
Douglas Fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Highest Risk	C
Firs	Abies spp.	Highest Risk	C
Fountain Grass	Pennisetum spp.	Highest Risk	
Holly	Ilex spp.	Highest Risk	B
Juniper	Juniperus spp.	Highest Risk	C
Pampas Grass	Cortaderia selloana	Highest Risk	
Pine	Pinus spp.	Highest Risk	C
Ponderosa Pine	Pinus ponderosa	Higher Risk	C
Spruce	Picea spp.	Highest Risk	C
Larch	Larix spp.	High Risk	D
Yew	Taxus spp.	Highest Risk	C

Figure 6: Fire Hazard Plants List according to FireSmart Canada

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