



REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

FireSmart Rebate Program

2026 Guidelines

Program Purpose and Goals

The FireSmart Rebate Program provides grant funding to private property owners to improve their home's resiliency to wildfires. Eligible homeowners can receive a 50% reimbursement up to a maximum of \$5,000 to complete recommended FireSmart actions such as replacing combustible surfaces with non-combustible surfaces, removing hazardous materials and debris, or trimming and spacing hazardous vegetation.

The goal of this program is to provide an incentive to homeowners to reduce the wildfire risk to their home and property. Reducing wildfire risk contributes to safer neighborhoods and decreases the risk of damage to homes caused by wildfire.

Funding for the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) FireSmart Rebate Program is provided by the Union of BC Municipalities.

The Program

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George will provide a 50% reimbursement grant up to a maximum of \$5,000 per property to homeowners who complete eligible FireSmart activities recommended by a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist.

Each property is eligible for an annual grant to a maximum of \$5,000. Each year a property may access the FireSmart Rebate Program for new/incremental FireSmart improvements.

Applications for the 2026 FireSmart Rebate Program will be open from June 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. Funding is limited and provided on a first-come first-serve basis.

The FireSmart Rebate Program is offered by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George with funding provided by the Union of BC Municipalities.

Rebate Amounts

The maximum eligible rebate for the FireSmart Rebate Program is \$5,000. Eligible rebate amounts are based on the hazard ignition zones. These zones are listed in priority of what poses the greatest wildfire risk to a home. See table below for maximum rebate amounts in each of the hazard ignition zones.

Home and Immediate Zone	0 - 1.5m	max rebate of \$5000
Intermediate Zone	1.5 - 10m	max rebate of \$2500
Extended Zone	10 - 30m	max rebate of \$1000

FireSmart recommendations can be actioned in one or all hazard ignition zones but once the maximum rebate amount of \$5,000 has been reached, no further rebates are eligible.

The Process

Step 1: Sign up for a free, confidential, and professional home assessment from a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist at firesmartbcplatform.ca/home or by calling the Regional District office at (250) 960-4400. This assessment outlines property-specific recommendations to improve wildfire resiliency of the home.

Step 2: Complete the FireSmart Activity Planning Form (found at the back of this guide) and submit to FireSmart@rdffg.bc.ca to confirm available rebates.

Step 3: Complete the FireSmart activities identified in the approved planning form either on your own or with the help of a contractor.

Step 4: Compile information including photos of completed work, paid invoices/record of hours, and mailing address of property.

Step 5: Submit FireSmart Activities Final Reporting Form to the Regional District at FireSmart@rdffg.bc.ca or 155 George Street, Prince George, BC – V2L 1P8.

Step 6: A Wildfire Mitigation Specialist will review the information, and a rebate will be provided.

Eligible Applicants

- Applicant must be the residential property or homeowner

Eligible Area/Properties

- A residential property OR a residential farm and ranch within the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
- All properties must be within the regional district boundary but outside of a municipal boundary

Ineligible Area/Properties

- Properties where nobody resides
- Commercial property or structures
- Government owned buildings (municipal, provincial or federal; even if they have business tenants)
- Properties outside the specified area (as defined in Eligible Areas)

Eligible Activities and Mitigation Work

Eligible mitigation work can include:

- Retrofitting existing residential structures/properties as per eligible activities table
- New residential construction, provided that:
 - Construction was completed within the past 12 months
 - Construction follows the Wildfire resilience best practice checking for home construction, renovation, and landscaping
 - Only incremental FireSmart expenditures, limited to the eligible activities table, are eligible
 - A wildfire mitigation assessment of the property is conducted when construction has been completed

For rebates, residential property or homeowners can complete the recommended mitigation activities themselves or hire others to complete the work. Rebate amounts for completed actions are subject to expected or realistic times for an average homeowner to complete the suggested mitigation activity and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis upon submission of an application to the program. To receive an estimate for how long mitigation activities should take an average homeowner to complete and the maximum amounts that can be claimed for each activity, ask your wildfire mitigation specialist during the assessment or contact FireSmart@rdffg.bc.ca.

Eligible Activities for FireSmart Rebates		
Home or Structure		
1	Roof Materials Gutters Vents and Openings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install UL/ASTM fire-rated roofing (metal, clay, asphalt shingles) • Install non-combustible gutters and/or gutter covers • Remove roof surface tree needles, debris or overhanging branches • Install closed eaves and/or non-combustible fire-rated vents or vents with 3 mm screening, excluding dryer vents.
2	Building Exterior or Siding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install ignition resistant (fibre cement board or log) or non-combustible (stucco, metal, brick/stone) exterior siding material • Repair gaps, cracks or holes where embers could lodge or penetrate • Provide 15 cm non-combustible vertical ground-to-siding clearance
3	Windows and Doors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install tempered glass in all doors and windows • Replace single pane window glass with multi pane / thermal window glass • Repair gaps in doors / garage doors where embers could accumulate or penetrate
4	Balcony, Deck, Porch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install non-combustible or fire-rated, solid (no gaps or cracks) deck surface and support construction • Close up open deck structures or remove all combustibles below deck
FireSmart Immediate Zone (0 to 1.5 metres from Home)		
5	1.5 metres from furthest extent of home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace combustible surfaces with non-combustible surfaces • Remove combustible debris, materials, fences or plants
FireSmart Intermediate Zone (1.5 to 10 metres from Home)		
6	Adjacent Combustibles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move woodpiles, building materials and all other combustibles into the Extended Zone or enclose in an approved outbuilding that meets FireSmart guidelines
7	Outbuildings not meeting FireSmart guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade outbuildings to meet FireSmart guidelines or relocate outbuildings more than 10 metres from home • Ensure any structures retained in this area are treated to the same standards as decks, and hardened against ember transfer • Examples of outbuildings include external heat sources, smoke houses, outdoor kitchens, etc.
8	Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove coniferous trees from this zone or mitigate mature conifers (limb to 2 metres or 1/3 of canopy, whichever is less and ensure 3 metre crown spacing where ecologically appropriate) • Promote deciduous trees that are resistant to wildfires
9	Surface vegetation and combustible materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut and maintain grass to less than 10 centimetres or shorter • Plant low-growing, well-spaced, fire-resistant plants and shrubs, avoid having any woody debris, including mulch • Ensure surface debris is kept to a minimum. Remove dead branches, excessive build-up of pine needles, and heavy accumulation of grass
FireSmart Extended Zone (10 to 30 metres from Home)		
10	Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thin coniferous trees or replace with deciduous tree species • Remove conifer tree branches within 2 metres of the ground or 1/3 of canopy, whichever is less and ensure 3 metre crown spacing where ecologically appropriate)
11	Surface Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce surface vegetation – long grass and flammable shrubs • Reduce accumulations of branches, logs and debris

The eligible activities listed in the table above were determined by the Union of BC Municipalities who provide the funding for this program and are not subject to change.

Ineligible Costs/Expenses

- Any activities or mitigation work not listed in the eligible activities table
- Any activities completed prior to receiving a wildfire mitigation assessment by a qualified wildfire mitigation specialist
- Equipment purchases of any kind
- Travel or mileage required for conducting mitigation activities
- Shipping costs
- Permits of any kind required to complete mitigation work

Please note:

As indicated in the rebate process, applicants MUST receive an assessment of their property by a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist and complete the FireSmart Activity Planning Form BEFORE conducting mitigation activities to be eligible for a rebate.

Upon review of application and completed activities, a reassessment of the property by your Wildfire Mitigation Specialist may be required prior to receiving a rebate.

Funding will be allocated based on project eligibility and availability of program funds. Funding will be committed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Additional Information

For questions and inquiries related to the FireSmart Rebate Program, please contact a member of our FireSmart team either by phone (250) 960-4400 or by email FireSmart@rdffg.bc.ca.

FireSmart Activity Planning Form:

Name:

Address:

Phone or email:

Date of Wildfire Mitigation Assessment:

Action Table	Recommended Action Being Completed: (list specific actions as per eligible activities table)	Estimated Hours:	Estimated Cost:
Home or Structure:			
Immediate Zone:			
Intermediate Zone:			
Extended Zone:			
Total:			

FireSmart Coordinator approval of planned activities:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

FireSmart Activity Final Reporting Form

Name:

Address:

Phone or email:

Date of Wildfire Mitigation Assessment:

Action Table	Recommended Actions Completed: (list specific actions as per eligible activities table)	Total Hours:	Total Cost:
Home or Structure:			
Immediate Zone:			
Intermediate Zone:			
Extended Zone:			
Total:			
Invoices for all contractor work attached to final submission? (required for all contracted work)		Yes	No
Pictures of completed work attached to final submission? (required for all work completed)		Yes	No

Information above will be reviewed by the FireSmart Coordinator upon submission. Property owners will be contacted to receive their rebate or if questions arise during the review process. A reassessment may be required to better identify completed work.

If you are interested in achieving a FireSmart Home Certification or want to know more about potential insurance rebates, contact the FireSmart Coordinator at FireSmart@rdffg.bc.ca.