Town of Canmore
Working Towards a FireSmart Community
Bow Valley – Centuries of Wildfire

• Bow Valley has burned frequently for centuries.

• Post-1940 fire exclusion has stretched fire cycles in many areas.

• Development has increased exponentially.

Early 1900’s

Present Day
• Historic:
  • Fire Return Interval = 23-77 yrs
  • South-facing slopes = 13-43 yrs
Increased wildland fuel loads and community development has resulted in Extreme Wildland/Urban Interface Threat.
Structure Ignition

- Embers (Firebrands)
- Direct Flame Contact
- Radiant Heat
Lessons Learned?

80-90% of homes destroyed by wildfires are ignited by embers.
Lessons Learned?

85 to 90% of homes with non-flammable roofs and 10 metres of clearance will survive a major wildfire.

If homes don’t ignite, homes don’t burn.
FireSmart Accomplishments
FireSmart Planning
2000, 2010, & 2018

Town of Canmore
Wildfire Mitigation Strategy Review

Prepared for:
Town of Canmore

March 2018

Montane Forest Management Ltd.
Canmore, AB
Phone: (403) 678-7084 Email: montane@shaw.ca
Landscape-Level Vegetation Mgt
~2km Width = 525 ha
Community-Level Vegetation Mgt
200 ha
Structure-Level Vegetation Mgt
Public Education

[Image of a building with a fire safety guide and people discussing]

[Image of a garden with FireSmart Guide to Landscaping]

[Image of a residential building with people inspecting]
Development & Legislation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Administration
2. General Regulations
3. Residential Land Use Districts
4. Commercial Land Use Districts
5. Industrial Land Use Districts
6. Miscellaneous Land Use Districts
7. Development Overlays
8. Use Specific Regulations
9. Signage Standards and Regulations
10. Green Building Regulations
11. Community Architectural and Urban
12. Density Bonus Regulations
13. Definitions
14. Direct Control Districts
15. Land Use Bylaw Maps

Town of Canmore
Engineering Department

Engineering Design and Construction Guidelines

June 2020
Inter-Agency Cooperation & Cross-Training
Emergency Response Planning
Town of Canmore
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