

# WHAT YOU SHOULD DO TO PROTECT YOUR HOUSE

## PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

### ROOF

- Remove dead branches overhanging your roof. Keep your roof and gutters clear of dead leaves and needles.
- Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a non-flammable screen of 13 mm or smaller mesh.

### CONSTRUCTION

- Consider fire-resistant building materials for your house and especially for your roof since the roof is the most vulnerable part of the house in case of a wildfire.
- Enclose the underside of balconies and aboveground decks with fire resistant materials.
- Avoid the use of plastic gutters or plastic pipes on the walls of your house.
- Install only dual-paned or triple-paned windows.



### YARD

- Create a fire zone around your house and remove all flammable materials from your yard. Modify the vegetation to reduce the wildfire threat.

- Break up continuous and dense vegetation of trees and bushes around your house.

- Prune the trees up to the height of 3 metres and remove all branches of trees and bushes that touch upon your house.



- Do not store flammable materials in the yard.
- Place fuel tanks at least 10 metres from any structure and clear a surrounding area of 3 metres from vegetation.



- If you have an electric generator, you must remove all vegetation from the surrounding area and the exhaust pipe must be lead to a container with water.

- Build a block wall or metal fence around the yard of your house.



- Install fire extinguishers and learn how to use them. Keep in good condition other firefighting tools such as hoes, shovels e.tc.



- Be provided with a metal rescue ladder that will reach the roof of your house.



### WATER SUPPLY

- Maintain your house with water supply through one of the following:
  - Community water
  - Hydrant system
  - Emergency storage tank
  - Place taps or a fire hose reel around your house



- If a swimming pool exists, install a pump and an appropriate hose.

- Clearly mark all emergency water sources and notify your local Forestry Department and other responsible services for their existence.

### ACCESS

- Identify at least two exit routes from your neighbourhood.

- Remove overhanging tree branches above roads.



### If you see smoke or fire

1. Call immediately **1407** or **112** (free call on a 24-hour basis), giving precise information about the locality of the fire.
2. Remove your vehicle or other obstacles, to facilitate the passage of the fire engines.
3. Stay calm and try to extinguish the fire using any means you have available to you. Throw water, or soil at the base of the fire or beat the flames using green branches. **Putting out a fire at its early stages is easy!**

**IF YOU SEE SMOKE OR FIRE**

**CALL IMMEDIATELY 1407 OR 112**

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN A WILDFIRE APPROACHES

- Remain calm.
- If flammable materials such as wood was used for the construction of your house, move to a safe place away from the house.
- Park vehicles into the garage facing outwards, and roll up all the windows. Never try to find shelter inside your vehicle. Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked. If you have an electric garage door opener, disconnect it so that the door opens manually.
- Open the entrance of your yard in order to facilitate the access of the fire fighters and vehicles.
- Disconnect any fuel tank and gas cylinders.
- Remove immediately all flammable materials from the surrounding area of your house and place them in a safe place.
- Close all exterior vents.
- Close all exterior doors (**don't lock them**) and windows.
- Remove lightweight and/or non-fire-resistant curtains and other flammable materials from around windows. If available, close fire-resistant drapes,

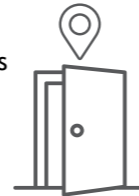


shutters, or blinds. Attach pre-cut plywood panels to the exterior of windows and glass doors.

- Make sure that all garden hoses are connected to faucets, and attach a nozzle set on "spray".
- Leave all lights on inside and outside of the house.
- Prop a ladder against the house, opposite to the fire direction, so fire fighters have easy access to the roof.
- Close all interior doors in order to reduce the spread of the fire and place wet cloths in any openings to prevent the smoke and fire from entering the house.
- Make sure family members are aware of a prearranged meeting place.
- **If you have not yet moved from the house to a safe place do not attempt to leave your house.**
- Tune in to a local radio station and listen for instructions.

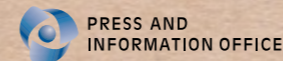


- Make sure to have torches and extra batteries in case of a power failure.
- Make sure you have water available to you. Have water flasks available, and fill buckets and the bathtub with water.
- Wear boots and cotton clothes. Have a towel available to cover your face if needed.
- Make sure all family members are in the same room of the house.
- After the passing of the fire get out of the house and extinguish immediately small fires.



**Make sure you are not the cause of a catastrophic fire**

- **Never burn** rubbish, dry grass or branches inside or outside your yard.
- If you want to have a barbecue, light a **fire only in the designated barbecue area**, so that the surrounding area is clean of dry grass and other flammable materials.
- Avoid working with tools that create sparks such as welding, using emery or other tools, as these may cause fire.
- Only throw cigarette butts or matches in **ashtrays** after first making sure you've put them out. Throwing a lit cigarette or match inside or outside your yard can cause a fire.



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## LIVE IN A HOUSE IN OR NEAR THE FOREST?

Learn how to protect yourself, your family and your property from fire

Do you live, permanently or not, in or near the forest?

Do you own a house in the countryside or in a forest area?

Do you spend your holidays in a mountain cottage?

This leaflet contains information that concern you.

Unfortunately, the danger of forest fire is real.

Learn how to protect yourself, your family and your property from fire.

