



# Delta Fire & Emergency Services

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Dear Resident,

## RE: Mitigating Wildfire Risk in Delta 2023

British Columbia is experiencing longer hot seasons, warmer year-round weather and more drought. Climate change is contributing to the increase and size of wildfires in our Province. As Delta's Fire Chief, I want to assure you that the City of Delta is continually working to mitigate the risk of wildfire in our region.

### Protect Your Home

You are receiving this letter because your home is located adjacent to a natural area. As summer months bring hot, dry weather, we encourage you to protect your home from risks associated with a natural area wildfire by taking these simple steps:

- Ensure that your yard is free of dry grass clippings, fallen branches, and compost heaps that could easily ignite.
- Remove tree leaves and needles from your roof and gutters.
- Remove any wood debris or other flammable materials within a 0 - 1.5 meter zone along your house. Additional information about this zone can be found in the FireSmart BC Homeowner's Manual (scan the QR code).
- Dispose of yard waste through Delta's curbside green waste removal program. **Do not deposit yard waste into ravines or forests** where it can add to the fuel load for forest fires.



FireSmart BC  
Homeowner's Manual

Residential backyard fires continue to be prohibited year-round in Delta. If you notice any unauthorized activity that poses a fire risk, please call Delta Police Department's 24/7 non-emergency line at 604.946.4411. As always, fires should be reported immediately by calling 9-1-1.

### Wildfire Prevention Project in Watershed Park

Fuel Management is the planned manipulation and (or) reduction of living or dead forest fuels for forest management. Delta is currently working on a comprehensive fuel management project in Watershed Park. This project involves management of the vegetation along pathways and roadways in and adjacent to the park. Removal of fuels (vegetation) from the park adjacent to homes and popular recreational trails will increase the resiliency of the local neighbourhood to wildfire risk. The intent of the treatment is to meet the objective of public safety, wildfire risk reduction and maintain or enhance ecosystem structure and function within the park. Scan the QR code to learn more about the project.



Watershed Park Fuel  
Management Project

Fuel management is a key element of the FireSmart approach. The objectives of fuel management are to:

- Reduce wildfire threat to homes and critical infrastructure;
- Reduce the possibility of uncontrolled crown fire through the reduction of surface fuels and ladder fuels;

- Reduce fire intensity, rate of spread, and ember and spot fire activity such that the probability of fire containment increases and the impacts on the forested landscape and the watershed are reduced;
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics or environmental values; and
- Establish a monitoring program and maintenance schedule for those areas that have been treated.

The focus for fuel management is not necessarily to stop fire but to decrease fire behavior and to ensure that fire intensity is low enough that fire damage is limited. Fuel management near homes may prevent structure ignition due to direct flame contact. FireSmarting your home will help to reduce the risk from an ember shower.

#### **Other Actions to Reduce Fire Risk in Delta**

Additional activities being undertaken to prepare for the 2023 wildfire season include:

- Coordination meetings with BC Wildfire Service, Metro Vancouver and Delta staff;
- Seasonal wildland training for Delta Fire and Emergency Services crews;
- Fuel treatment and conifer pruning as part of a trailside maintenance program in high traffic interface, recreational areas (Watershed Park and Delta Nature Reserve);
- A FireSmart social media campaign, as well as updated online information relating to the Watershed Park fuel management operations project;
- Community outreach / engagement at Watershed Park during the fuel treatment project. FireSmart representatives will be periodically staged at different trail head locations to answer questions about the project, and to distribute FireSmart literature; and
- Increase in staff park patrols during high and extreme fire danger periods. Residents visiting parks are also helpful “eyes and ears” to report fires in their early stages and facilitate a prompt and effective fire response if an issue should arise.

Our goal is to FireSmart our community. The City has made good progress towards mitigating fire risk. Keeping Delta safe from wildfires is our collective responsibility - together, we can work to reduce the community’s risk of wildfire. Should you have any questions about wildfire prevention in Delta or require additional information about FireSmart protection measures that you can implement at home, please do not hesitate to contact the Delta Fire Department Community Fire Liaison at 604.952.3520 or [communityfireliaison@delta.ca](mailto:communityfireliaison@delta.ca).

Sincerely,



Guy McKintuck  
Fire Chief