

## **I'm a Property Owner – How can I reduce Wildfire Risks**

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### **How do I determine the risk of wildfire to my property?**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) provides **free of charge Home Wildfire Risk Assessments**. You can schedule a wildfire expert to come to your property and make recommendations to help you decrease your risk of property damage and loss from wildfires.

### **How can I reduce the risk of wildfire to my property?**

EMRWPT has posted the Firewise® USA poster, “Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone”, on our garbage enclosure. Or you can go to **Firewise® USA** and look for the publication “Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone” as well as **Montana Wildfire Information** for more information.

### **Where can I get physical and/or financial help after I identify the wildfire risks to my property?**

There is a [list of local contractors](#) that work in conjunction with **Frenchtown Rural Fire District** (406-626-5791). Other local organizations that can help are **Wildfire Ready Missoula** and **Bitter Root Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.** All these organizations, including Frenchtown Rural Fire District, use a grant program where the property owner pays 25% and the grant pays 75% of the total cost.

## What should I do in preparation for fire season?

Remove pine needles and other flammables from around your buildings and propane tanks. Clean off your roof and gutters of any flammable debris, etc. For more information go to [Wildfire Adapted Missoula County](#), [Missoula County Fire Protection Association \(MCFPA\)](#), and/or [Firewise® USA](#).

Sign up for Smart 911 to receive local emergency alerts. [Smart911](#)

Install a Reflective Address Sign: Have a REFLECTIVE address sign posted at the beginning of your driveway to help fire fighters and first responders identify your home in an emergency. Frenchtown Rural Fire District has a supply of reflective signs available at no cost, contact the [Frenchtown Rural Fire District](#), 406-626-5791 for details. For those property owners that have decorative address signs that aren't reflective, please consider adding a reflective sign, it could make a big difference during an emergency.

## I've cleared out branches and debris – what do I do with it?

You can burn the natural fuels on your property with a valid and activated [Missoula County Burn Permit](#). There are restrictions on when you can burn listed on the website.

Call [Frenchtown Rural Fire District](#) (406-626-5791) or [email](#) to have that fuel chipped. The size limit on what they can chip is 6 inches in diameter and smaller.

Elk Meadows Ranchettes has a communal burn pile at the junction of Wapiti Road and Wambli Lane. This location is on private property. The pile is burned in conjunction with National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day which is on the first Saturday in May each year. You can bring your natural, preferably dry, fuels to this pile starting in March and up to the day of the burn. Since this pile is on private property, please do not drive over the property when conditions are muddy. A letter is sent out to all property owners each April with further information about the annual National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day.

## In the event of a wildfire (or other disaster) how do we get out?

EMRWPT has developed a [map](#) with information on Evacuation Routes and Emergency Evacuation Gathering Areas that you should become familiar with. EMRWPT highly recommends you [download this map](#) and keep copies in each of your vehicles. Please remember that two of the evacuation routes are on private property and should be only used when a designated emergency occurs.

## Why are people removing trees along roadsides?

Thinning (not total tree removal) the trees along your property that borders the road will help decrease the wildfire risk during an evacuation. Ladder fuels (fuels from the ground up into the tops of the trees) can create a tunnel of fire that could make it impossible to pass by. We encourage you to thin the roadside trees on your own property. For advice/guidance contact EMWPT ([emrwildfireprep@gmail.com](mailto:emrwildfireprep@gmail.com)) or [Frenchtown Rural Fire District](#).