

## Forest Protection Area of Alberta

Alberta's Forest Protection Area (FPA) covers approximately 60 per cent of the province's landmass. The province is responsible for managing wildfires in this area. Wildfire protection in Alberta is shared between Alberta Wildfire (inside the FPA) and the municipalities and counties outside the FPA.

For more information:  
[wildfire.alberta.ca/wildfire-maps/administrative-boundaries.aspx](http://wildfire.alberta.ca/wildfire-maps/administrative-boundaries.aspx)

## Forest and Prairie Protection Act

If you're responsible for starting a wildfire, you can be charged under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act (FPPA), fined and held liable for all costs associated with fighting the wildfire. All Alberta legislation, including the FPPA, can be found at the Queen's Printer.

For more information:  
[qp.alberta.ca](http://qp.alberta.ca)



## About Alberta Wildfire

Wildfire can have a drastic effect socially, economically and on the landscape. That's why wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility and municipal leaders, industry and the Government of Alberta all have a role to play.

Having an awareness of wildfire hazards and taking a unified approach to reducing hazards reduces the risk to all Albertans.

# Hazard Reduction Burn



Learn more about FireSmart:  
[firesmart.ca](http://firesmart.ca)

For up-to-date information on fire  
bans across the province:  
[albertafirebans.ca](http://albertafirebans.ca)

Questions?  
[wildfireinfo@gov.ab.ca](mailto:wildfireinfo@gov.ab.ca)  
1-866-FYI-FIRE

## What is a hazard reduction burn?

A hazard reduction burn (HRB) is the strategic use of controlled fire to reduce the overall wildfire hazards in the province's forested areas.

Alberta Wildfire helps protect communities and infrastructure. Other ways in which we help reduce the risk of wildfire include awareness campaigns, FireSmart initiatives and enforcement of the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*.

Through rigorous planning, including safety protocols and stakeholder consultation, Alberta Wildfire, alongside municipal fire departments, carries out HRBs across the province every year. Plans for each burn include continual monitoring of environmental factors for the safe and effective reduction of the wildfire hazard. A typical HRB is done in stages, burning strips in a systematic pattern, which allows firefighters to control and stop the operation when necessary.

In addition to reducing the wildfire hazard, these burns create or enhance areas that can be used for a variety of firefighting tactics including the use of sprinkler lines, the creation of fireguards or creating areas that helicopters can use for operations.

## Where do they happen?

Alberta Wildfire uses HRBs to reduce the threat of wildfire occurring in high-risk areas, which are typically surrounding communities.

HRBs are done on right-of-ways and/or seismic survey lines. During the burn, grass and debris burns quickly and the fire is extinguished before it can burn deeper or consume larger surface fuels (such as logs). This controlled, strategic burn prevents damage to infrastructure in the ground, such as pipelines.

## Why do they happen?

With more people living and working in and near forested areas across Alberta, many communities are at risk from wildfires. Wildfire hazards in areas such as right-of-ways for power lines, pipelines and seismic surveys can be safely and effectively reduced. If left unmanaged, these types of infrastructure provide corridors for wildfires to move rapidly. Removing these hazards reduces the risk of wildfire to Albertans and our communities.



Crews with specialized pumps and hoses create perimeter-wet lines to contain and control fire spread.



An 'anchor' or safe-starting point (e.g. roadway, lake, or burned area) is carefully selected or created. Firefighters burn outward from this safety zone.



Firefighters patrol the burned areas, extinguishing any remaining hot spots.



Above-ground infrastructure or industry equipment is carefully protected by burning guards or laying wet-line around them in advance.



Off-highway vehicles carry water, fuel, equipment and firefighters around the area of operations. Heavy equipment is not used on sensitive pipeline sites.



Weather readings are taken regularly to ensure safety and effective fuel removal.

