

## 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:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/forest-protection-area-map>

## 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 King's Printer.

For more information:

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer>



## About Alberta Wildfire

Wildfire can have a drastic effect on our society, economy and landscapes. The Government of Alberta, municipal leaders and industry all have a role to play in wildfire prevention.

Being aware of wildfire risk and taking a unified approach to address it mitigates the severity of wildfire for all Albertans.

# Hazard reduction burn



Learn more about FireSmart:  
<https://firesmartalberta.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

[wildfire.alberta.ca](http://wildfire.alberta.ca)

Alberta

## What is a hazard reduction burn?

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

Alberta Wildfire helps protect communities and infrastructure. Wildfire risk is also reduced through awareness campaigns, FireSmart initiatives and enforcement of the Forest and Prairie Protection Act.

After rigorous planning, which includes 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 risk. 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 risk, 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 vegetation, 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 risk 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 surround the perimeter to contain and control fire spread.



An 'anchor' or safe-starting point (e.g. roadway, lake, or previously 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 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 vegetation removal.

