
FireSmart™ BC Magnetic Board Lesson Plan

The magnetic board introduces students of all ages to FireSmart concepts and campfire safety. It visually showcases how to make homes and campsites more FireSmart and promotes awareness of wildfire resiliency.

The magnetic board has two sides: one that shows how to be FireSmart around your house and the other to show how to be FireSmart around a campfire.

Follow the instructions below for both sides, setting up each of the three scenarios for the participants and letting them move the magnets around to make the situation more FireSmart.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand what a FireSmart choice looks like
2. Be able to identify what hazards exist around your home and campfire when fire is present
3. Know what steps to take to FireSmart a property or campsite

Resources

- Two-sided magnetic board
- Magnets
- Carrying case for magnetic board and magnets

Lesson

House Side

Intro

When a wildfire threatens your home, you want to make sure it's well equipped to withstand the embers and heat. There are lots of things you can do around your house to make it more FireSmart.

We're going to give you 3 situations, and you have to move the magnets around to make the home on the board more FireSmart.

Scenario 1 - Messy gutters and unkempt yard.

Instructor setup - to be completed before starting the lesson:

- Place leaves in eavestroughs
- Place leaves under deck
- Do not place a lawnmower
- Place trees near the house or firepit

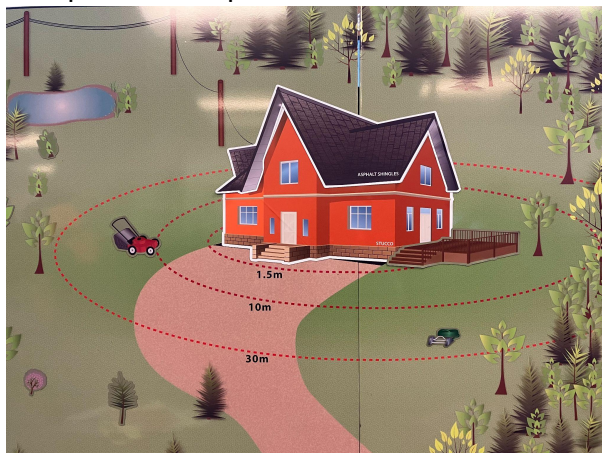
Setup example:



Now ask participants to move the magnets around to FireSmart the home. They can add, remove or move the magnets as they see fit. Here are a few things they can do:

- Remove leaves from eavestroughs and under deck
- Add a lawnmower
- Move the trees away from the house and firepit or remove them entirely

Completed example:



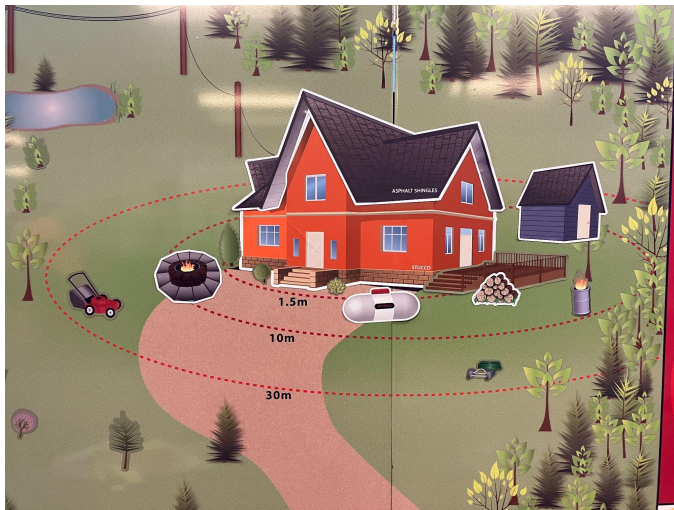
Discussion: Keeping your lawn short and gutters clear are good steps to making your home more FireSmart. By removing the fuels that embers can ignite, you help reduce the risk of your house catching on fire when a wildfire is nearby.

Scenario 2 - Hazards near house

Instructor setup - to be completed before starting the lesson:

- Place woodpile beside/near the house
- Add plants that are touching the house
- Place the propane tank within 10 meters of the home
- Place the shed within 10 meters of the home
- Place the firepit within 10 meters of the home

Setup example:



Now ask participants to move the magnets around to FireSmart the home. They can add, remove or move the magnets as they see fit. Here are a few things they can do:

- Move the woodpile away from the house
- Move the plants away from the house
- Move the propane tank away from the house
- Move the shed away from the house
- Move the firepit away from the house

Completed example:



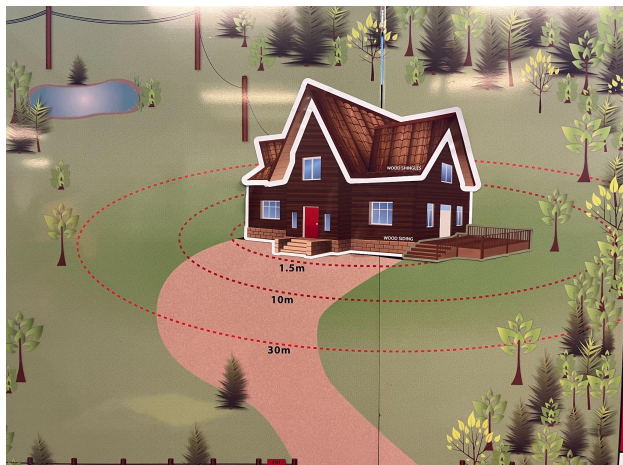
Discussion: Having flammable hazards like wood, plants, bark mulch, propane tanks and sheds near your house means that when embers ignite them they're more likely to transfer to your house because of how close they are. Moving these hazards 10 or more meters from your house is a great way to make it safer.

Scenario 3 - Housing material is flammable

Instructor setup - to be completed before starting the lesson:

- Use a wood or vinyl house magnet
- Use a wood roof
- Include any other hazards you want that haven't been covered

Setup example:



Now ask participants to move the magnets around to FireSmart the home. They can add, remove or move the magnets as they see fit. Here are a few things they can do:

- Change the housing material to stucco or metal
- Change the roofing to asphalt or metal or clay

Completed example:



Discussion: Certain materials are more flammable than others. When you're deciding what to build your house out of, it's best to steer clear of wood and vinyl and use asphalt, concrete, stucco or metal instead.

Campfire Side

Intro

Campfires are a fun summer activity, whether you have one while camping to roast marshmallows or in your backyard. Anyone who's been around a campfire knows that they're very hot, and that you have to make sure they don't get out of control and catch anything else on fire.

We're going to give you 3 situations and you have to move the magnets around to make the campfire on the board safer.

Scenario 1 – Hazards nearby

Instructor setup - to be completed before starting the lesson:

- Place firepit without rock ring
- Place gusty winds magnet
- Place vegetation near the fire
- Place trees near the fire
- Place tent near fire

Setup example:



Now ask participants to move the magnets around to FireSmart the campfire. They can add, remove or move the magnets as they see fit. Here are a few things they can do:

- Either remove the wind or identify it as a hazard and proceed carefully with the fire
- Clear vegetation from around the fire
- Move the campfire away from trees
- Move the tent away from the fire
- Change the campfire to the one with a ring of rocks around it

Completed example:



Discussion: Identifying potential hazards is important when it comes to campfires. In this situation, there's a lot of wind, which can blow the embers from the fire into the surrounding trees and bushes. Clearing the debris around your fire and moving it away from the trees will help, but if the wind is strong then it's best not to have a fire at all.

Scenario 2 – No adults

Instructor setup - to be completed before starting the lesson:

- **No adult supervision (do not include adult magnet)**
- **Place vegetation nearby**
- **Place the high danger rating sign**

Setup example:



Now ask participants to move the magnets around to FireSmart the campfire. They can add, remove or move the magnets as they see fit. Here are a few things they can do:

- Add an adult nearby
- Clear the vegetation from around the fire

Completed example:



Discussion: Remember to always have an adult around when you're having a campfire. Fire is very hot and can get out of control quickly if you don't know how to take care of it, especially if there's things that can catch fire nearby.

Scenario 3 – No suppression tools

Instructor setup - to be completed before starting the lesson:

- Do not place hand tools or water on board
- Place firewood nearby
- Place the extreme danger rating sign

Setup example:



Now ask participants to move the magnets around to FireSmart the campfire. They can add, remove or move the magnets as they see fit. Here are a few things they can do:

- Add hand tools or water near the fire
- Move the firewood further from the fire
- Change the fire danger rating sign/ remove the fire

Completed example:



Discussion: It's important to have the right tools nearby to put your fire out if it gets out of control, especially if the fire danger rating is high. When the danger rating is high or extreme you should be extra careful with your fire and ensure that there aren't any active campfire bans in your area.

Wrap up

At the end of the lesson, highlight the things to remember when being FireSmart around campfires, like keeping it 0.5m by 0.5m, clearing away surrounding ignition sources, checking the weather conditions, and having water and a shovel nearby.

During this lesson you can also take some time to introduce Ember the FireSmart fox, the new face of FireSmart BC. Ember represents alertness, adaptability, intelligence, and community mindedness. She lives in the forest and teaches people how to be FireSmart.



Show or direct participants to the wildfire regulation page on the BC government site, as well as the current fire bans and restrictions page. These pages are good resources for anyone wondering whether they can have a fire and what the regulations are while they're burning.

[Wildfire Regulation \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-regulation)

[Fire Bans and Restrictions - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/fire-bans-restrictions)