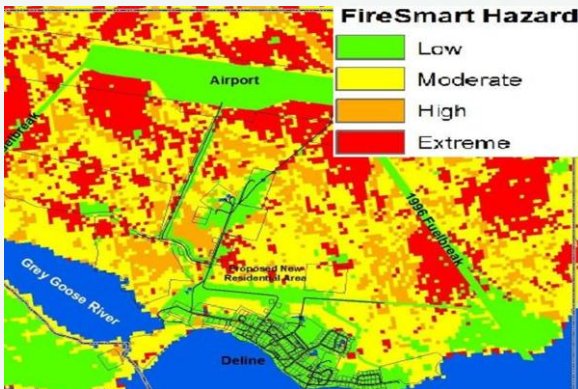


# Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Identify and reduce the risk of wildfires in NWT communities through Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs).

## CONTEXT

Wildfires are a natural occurrence in the boreal forest ecosystem and an essential component of the health, productivity, and diversity of its forests. Balancing this with the protection of people, property and forest values presents a complex challenge. It is complicated by climate change, which is predicted to result in an increase in the number and severity of wildland fires and a lengthening of the fire season during the next century. Mitigating risk from wildfire to NWT communities and infrastructure, most of which are located in a forest environment, is necessary to address these challenges.



## OBJECTIVE

CWPPs are tools for community land use planning and risk mitigation. The goals are to identify fire risks and plan for mitigation measures in communities, to promote and support community involvement in the creation and ownership of CWPPs, to increase local knowledge about wildfire risks and FireSmart principles and to provide a framework for implementing community protection initiatives.

## APPROACH

First, a meeting between the community, ENR and other parties will be held, to assess past, current and future Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) issues and concerns and to explain the project to interested parties. Next, a community/wildland interface wildfire risk analysis will be conducted to identify the risk of wildfire within a 2km radius of the community. This analysis considers factors such as fire behavior, values at risk, risk of ignition and suppression or mitigation constraints.

On-site assessment and discussion follows this and a draft CWPP is prepared and presented for review. After additional concerns are incorporated into the draft CWPP, a final CWPP is created, allowing recommendations to be initiated. The final CWPP will be reassessed and revised at five-year intervals.

## RESULTS

CWPPs can be downloaded from: <http://www.nwtfire.com/cms/cwpp>.

Completed CWPPs help communities to make sound decisions about which areas are most important to address in order to reduce wildfire risk, to develop funding applications to assist in the implementation of recommendations and to work with private land- and home-owners, to help them take responsibility for addressing their own exposure to risk.

## Significance

*The number and severity of wildfires in the NWT is expected to increase due to climate change. By creating CWPPs, the risk of and loss from wildfires can be reduced.*

## Partners

- GNWT Environment and Natural Resources, Forest Management Branch
- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- NWT Communities
- Montane Forest Management
- Valhalla Consulting Inc.

## FOR MORE INFO

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