

# Prince Albert Model Forest Association Inc.



## Prince Albert Model Forest Helping Communities Become FireSmart



The partners of the Prince Albert Model Forest are working with communities to reduce the threat of forest fire. During 2004, the Model Forest worked with the communities of Waskesiu and Candle Lake to develop and implement a FireSmart plan. In Candle Lake, this comprehensive plan included the development of a series of fuel breaks that will help protect the community from wildfire. In Waskesiu, the focus was on how individuals can do their part by reducing flammable materials on and near their homes.

The Model Forest is also assessing the feasibility of developing a landscape-scale FireSmart program. This program uses fire behaviour models to test the effect of modifying the landscape to reduce the threat of wildfire to communities, commercial timber and other forest values. It explores methods such as strategic harvesting or converting conifer and mixedwood stands to deciduous stands in order to provide firefighters with control points on the landscape. These types of large-scale modifications are being tested by the Model Forest to expand our preparedness in managing wildfire to better protect communities and forest resources.

Boreal forest ecosystems are adapted to and dependent upon fire to maintain their ecological integrity. Communities in the boreal forest must be proactive by planning ahead to reduce their wildfire risks. Prevention and control of fires in the interface between communities and forests present many unique challenges. One of these challenges is acknowledging the important regenerative role fire plays in forests, while at the same time reducing accidental fires with safe, responsible use of fire. The Prince Albert Model Forest is working with its partners to find innovative solutions to help protect our communities and address these issues.

To learn more about how your community can become FireSmart, please contact:  
Prince Albert Model Forest Association  
Phone 306.922.1944 [www.pamodelforest.sk.ca](http://www.pamodelforest.sk.ca)

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