
FireSmart™ BC October Power Hour

Q&A and Key Links

Key Links:

- Amanda Reynolds - New Position: Provincial FireSmart Coordinator for [FNESS](#)
 - Contact areynolds@fness.bc.ca or 778-694-9982
- Nominate an LFR of the month by emailing info@firesmartbc.ca
- If you are working as FireSmart Coordinator, similar position or LFR, please update us if your contact info has changed at info@firesmartbc.ca
- [Library Program](#) (Eligible for CRI)
- [Plant Program](#) (Eligible for CRI)
- Follow us! @FireSmartBC
- [Get FireSmart Podcast](#)
- Dashwood Videos: <https://vimeo.com/738373174> & <https://vimeo.com/753923009>

Questions:

- Questions about CRI? Contact: cri@ubcm.ca
- Questions about the experience of a Regional FireSmart Committee? Contact: tbalan@rdek.bc.ca or FireSmart@rdek.bc.ca
- Questions about FireSmart? Contact: info@firesmartbc.ca
- Questions about FireSmart Neighbourhoods? Contact: fcnrp@firesmartbc.ca

- **Q: Does the critical infrastructure new construction include homes?**
 - A: Critical Infrastructure does not include homes. Eligible projects must be First Nations-owned buildings or publicly owned buildings that are currently designated as critical to supporting an effective emergency response to a wildfire event. This includes structures designated as Emergency Operations Centres or Emergency Support Services facilities (e.g. reception centres, group lodging locations for evacuees), water pump stations, communications towers, and electrical generating stations, but does not include all critical infrastructure identified through the Local Authority Emergency Plan. For more information please see section 8 of the [CRI Guide](#).

- **Q: How much funding is available for construction?**
 - A: Up to \$53,500 per eligible structure, including building materials and labour.
- **Q: How does one obtain the 2022 prescription guidelines?**
 - A: See the [CRI Guide](#) section 11 for links to prescription guidance.
- **Q: We have a type 2 SPU trailer that is registered for deployment with the province, we would like to apply for phase 1 and begin to build another SPU to add an additional layer of protection to our community. Is there an issue with us already having a unit?**
 - A: Please view page 27 of the [CRI Guide](#) for details on how to get in touch with the structure protection coordinator for more guidance.
- **Q: Can you speak to how to best structure a FireSmart coordinator position within a small municipality? Are there ways to structure this position within the grant application that is less onerous to track activities and that provides added flexibility to meet the intent of the proposed activities as well as community uptake?**
 - A: This really depends on the Coordinator position and the area that they serve. We would suggest starting with the [FireSmart Road Map](#) and building activities based on the first phase.
- **Q: The program guide says that a community must have FireSmart Resiliency Committee to be eligible for future funding; does this mean that each community has to have their own Committee or would a community be eligible if it is part of a Regional Committee?**
 - A: Smaller communities can group together to form a regional committee.
- **Q: We have a small SPU trailer, can we add equipment with this grant?**
 - A: Please view page 27 of the [CRI Guide](#) for details on how to get in touch with the structure protection coordinator for more guidance.
- **Q: What is a realistic timeline to set up a Community / Regional District FireSmart program using the RDEK as an example to date (and outstanding issues to set up) and any others that you are aware of?**
 - A: A program can be started over a period of a year and be fully functioning within two. It is a long-term commitment however to build a truly wildfire-resilient community.
- **Q: CRI 2023 SPU Trailers: Could you speak to the training requirements for operating the SPU (re: Air tanker and Helicopter use, etc) and the Structure Protection Community Assessment? How does this make sense at a Regional District level?**

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- A: These are all in the [CRI Guide](#) under Structural protection. For more questions about the Community Assessment please contact SPCO@gov.bc.ca
 - **Q: how much would a SPU trailer cost?**
 - A: For information about the four phases of purchasing a SPU trailer, please see page 27 of the [CRI guide](#).
 - **Q: how does the rebate increase work for \$1000.00 is that only for CRI2023 application? What if rebates are unused for CRI2020 left?**
 - A: The \$1000 rebate is for the CRI 2023 intake. Funds do not transfer from one application year to the next.
 - **Q: Would it be possible to have a rep from FireSmart come to our hall to meet and discuss this?**
 - A: For FireSmart BC support, please contact info@firesmartbc.ca. We are happy to speak over the phone and can do our best to arrange an in-person visit should we have nearby staff available.
 - **Q: Is the CWRP still not accepting applications from non-profit FireSmart neighbourhood associations (i.e. private landowners)? In other words, does a local FS Canada Recognized Neighbourhood still have to try to be under a local government for their much-needed FireSmart-related projects?**
 - A: The major funding source for wildfire resiliency in BC is the CRI program. Private landowners are encouraged to talk to their municipal leaders and encourage application in this program. We are constantly striving to serve the population in BC, stay tuned for future developments.
 - **Q: We are having trouble finding a community leader. Any ideas?**
 - A: Try looking at local groups and committees with established leaders and attendees. These people are often leaders in the community and have a natural bridge to implement FireSmart.
 - **Q: We are looking at getting a landscaping trailer to assist with mitigation work in the community. It is going to be more expensive to lease or rent a trailer than to purchase. Is purchasing a trailer an option?**
 - A: This would be dependent on the area that you are in and the size and parameters of the trailer. You cannot purchase a landscaping trailer with CRI funding.
 - **Q: Can a FireSmart Coordinator be a temporary contract position under the terms of the grant funding, or does it need to be a permanent position?**
 - A: As long as there is a FireSmart Coordinator it can be temporary or full-time. The position is a requirement however long term so permanent does give the applicant more longevity.

- **Q: How do you set priorities for Firesmart projects to make sure all members of your group are satisfied?**
 - A: This would depend on the project. Starting with a discussion at the CRFC level would be great to make sure major players are involved.
- **Q: How do you engage a Regional District that does not seem interested in FireSmart?**
 - A: Gather community support, have a town hall meeting, invite members of the Regional District to attend, do a presentation for Mayor and Council, keep on trying!
- **Q: How do you balance out the paid vs. volunteer committee members for time, meeting times, and costs?**
 - A: Please contact info@firesmartbc.ca to follow up on this question. More details are needed in order for us to provide a complete answer.
- **Q: Any hope of simplifying the Neighborhood Recognition process (advocacy to FS Canada)? We've tried to guide a few communities and it's been ridiculously difficult and obstructive, both for the "community champions" and the LFRs**
 - A: FireSmart BC is advocating FireSmart Canada to make changes to the FCNRP. FireSmart BC would like to learn more about the difficulties and obstructive challenges you have faced. Please email fcnrp@firesmartbc.ca
- **Q: Regarding the FCFS application package, can you speak to the changes in the revised October version of the application?**
 - A: We're happy to discuss the enhancements to the program, there are many though. Please reach out to info@firesmartbc.ca for specifics on your area of interest.