

# Homalco



# FireSmart

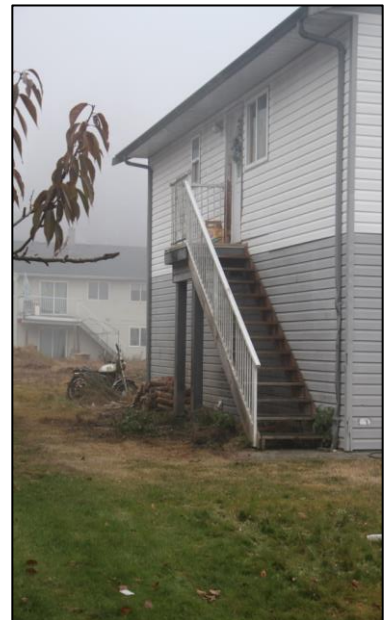
## Newsletter

February 28, 2023

### Real Progress

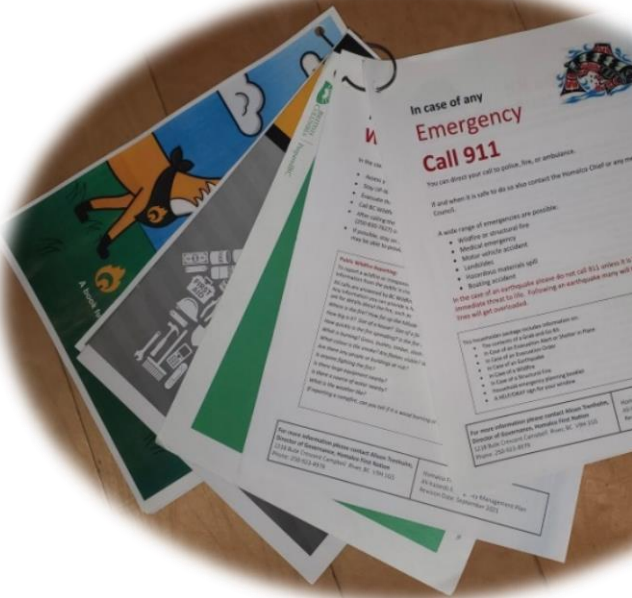
Twenty-eight homes on the reserve have been treated to reduce the risk of destruction by wildfire. While the work was happening we were able to discuss the treatments and benefits with residents and we experienced great interest and enthusiasm.

Typical treatments were the removal and rooting out of brush, removing or pruning of trees, broom pulling, and removal of flammable wood debris. All of these treatments slow down, or decrease the intensity of any wildfire approaching our homes. This gives residents more time to escape and firefighters a better chance of saving the homes. We want to thank everyone for your support and cooperation.



# What is FireSmart all About?

Climate change is real and now. There is no longer a normal pattern of weather, but we do know that weather events will be more extreme and more frequent. Fire is a natural component of the forests surrounding Homalco, and in the future its presence and impacts will only be more strongly felt by the community. Excluding fire is not possible, but we can live with fire without disastrous loss of life, property, and resources. FireSmart gives us the tools to do this.



Have you got your emergency information package hanging in the front closet? If you need one please ask one of our FireSmart Champions, Ella or James.





# FireSmart Assessments

When we are assessing homes, the things we want to see are:

- No flammable materials within 1.5m of the home;
- No coniferous trees or shrubs within 10 metres of the home;
- Remaining trees spaced out and pruned up from the ground to prevent fire spreading into the crown of the tree and tree to tree; and
- Firewood stored away from the home.

These are guidelines and owners and residents make the decisions balancing personal and community risks. Below are some “before” shots.



The Homalco emergency management team has produced this newsletter in order to share with the community our progress in protecting the community from wildfire through implementation of FireSmart.

This is the second in a series.





## Homalco Open House

In conjunction with the Homalco community open house, the Homalco FireSmart program was showcased to community members on June 10th, 2022.

## Summer FireSmart Event - August 2022

This past summer we held another community FireSmart event. Members came out for a lunch together and then hear about the program and learn how to help protect the community from wildfire.

