News Release

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Penticton Fire Department calling residents to armour homes

(Penticton, BC – October 9, 2020) – With the recent Mount Christie wildfire still fresh in our minds, the Penticton Fire Department is calling on Penticton residents to become FireSmart BC champions by learning how to armour their homes from wildfire.

Fire Chief Larry Watkinson says there are some simple steps residents can take in less than five minutes that will help them protect their homes.

"We want champions in the community who will take this initiative to heart and help spread the word," said Watkinson. "Homes rarely burn down from wildfires. They burn down because of poor fire prevention management practices. We need homeowners to know about the risk of ember showers, which can travel up to 2 km and ignite your home. By educating those within our community to remove debris around their homes, we can prevent the spread of wildfire."

The Fire Department is encouraging locals to download the FireSmart Begins at Home app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. This is a simple process that walks homeowners through a self-conducted home assessment. In a matter of minutes, the app will help identify specific and simple actions you can take on your property to reduce wildfire risks.

If you don't have access to the app, you can access all the relevant checklists and helpful tips at penticton.ca/firesmart or visit firesmartbc.ca for more resources on how to protect your family and property from wildfire.

The Fire Department will be ramping up its FireSmart education campaign in the coming months, particularly as we return to spring and warmer weather. Crews also continue to conduct mitigation and fire prevention work within the wildland urban interface area.

Penticton is home to a growing number of FireSmart communities, which have been officially recognized and identified with an on-site plaque. This includes Sendero Canyon, Spiller Road, Juniper Drive and Riddle Road, with more in the works.

FireSmart Canada is a national initiative that helps property owners living in/and or close to forested areas to be aware of the wildfire threat and offers ways to take action to make their homes and community become FireSmart. Find out more at penticton.ca/firesmart.

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