



CITY OF WEST KELOWNA

COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

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Approval Date: December 10, 2024

DEPARTMENT:	Protective Services
SUBJECT:	Wildfire Mitigation, Prevention and Forest Fuel Management – Private Land

Policy Statement:

West Kelowna Council holds the safety of its residents in the highest regard. As a result of ongoing wildfires within the City, Council wishes to maintain a policy to address wildfire prevention, mitigation and forest fuel management mitigation on private land.

Purpose:

To address wildfire prevention, mitigation, forest fuel accumulations on private land and establish guidelines.

Policy:

1. West Kelowna Fire Rescue will establish a comprehensive public education and communication program based on current industry standards and focusing on private land to reduce the impact of wildfire on our community. Private property owners wishing for an assessment of their land can make a request to the Fire Department for an assessment. Assessments will be prioritized based on risk, as outlined in the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP).
2. Council will annually review the Forest Fuel Management policy in relation to the CWRP which will be managed by West Kelowna Fire Rescue staff in partnership with our forestry consultant and consider budgeting funds to conduct a program based on recommendations from West Kelowna Fire Rescue and public feedback (citizen's survey). The program may include financial and staff resources.
3. West Kelowna Fire Rescue and our Forestry Consultant will pursue funding opportunities with the provincial and federal government to provide funding to private land owners for treatment of their private land and to continue treating the recommended areas on public land based on priorities outlined in our CWRP.
4. Council will consider proper forest fuel mitigation components in all departments of the City especially in the areas of:
 - a. Building and Regulatory (Bylaw) Services
 - b. Planning
 - c. Parks
 - d. Engineering

- e. Communications
- f. Finance

5. West Kelowna Fire Rescue will coordinate a city-wide committee that will include the departments above. The committee will meet quarterly to discuss activities mandated under this policy as well as other wildfire prevention and mitigation related activities.
6. West Kelowna Fire Rescue and the departments listed above are encouraged by Council to stay current, involved and innovate in all areas relating to the prevention, mitigation and response to wildfire. This may include working with external organizations, universities, regional, provincial and federal governments, and industry to develop new and innovative practices and/or technologies within existing resources.
7. Council will be updated at least twice annually by representatives of the Committee on items related to the implementation of this policy as well as planned upcoming activities.

Previous Revision/s: May 25, 2010
