

Chris Cuthbertson, Director
Aviation, Forest Fire and
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MEMO

To: Ontario Municipalities

Date: July 20, 2020

From: Chris Cuthbertson, Director

Subject: Community Toolkit – Fire Prevention

Early in April, I wrote to you regarding the implementation of a Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) order for the entire fire region that took effect on April 3, 2020. This RFZ was put in place proactively to help manage the wildland fire season this year, in the face of the COVID-19 outbreak.

While this RFZ has now been lifted, minimizing wildland fire in Ontario continues to be a priority for us – and we are seeking your support.

Preventing human-caused fire is everybody's responsibility. We know we can count on partners like you to help reduce fire hazard and ensure the health and safety of our staff and communities across the province this wildland fire season.

To support you and your community, we have created an educational toolkit with information and resources that you may wish to consult and distribute broadly. This toolkit includes:

- Executive Summary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) Preparedness Actions;
- FireSmart Canada Resource Links:
 - [FireSmart Protecting Your Community](#);
 - [FireSmart Home Ignition Poster](#);
 - [FireSmart Home Owners Manual](#); and
 - [FireSmart Home Assessment](#).

- Fire Prevention Fact Sheets (attached within the memo):
 - RFZ Fact Sheet;
 - RFZ and Campground Fact Sheet;
 - Fireworks Fact Sheet;
 - Compost Don't Burn Fact Sheet;
 - Safe Campfire Fact Sheet;
 - Shore Lunch Fire Fact Sheet;
 - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Safety Poster; and
 - Waterbomber Safety Poster.

Depending on the severity of the fire season, and any new guidelines recommended by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, RFZ designations may be implemented again in the future. Please be assured that as the government takes gradual and cautious steps to reopen the province, we remain vigilant in our efforts to protect people, property, infrastructure and communities. You'll find more information in the toolkit about some of the proactive measures we're taking to modify our wildland fire response plan this year, in the face of COVID-19.

I hope the tools and information we have provided will help to promote public education in your community. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Cuthbertson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Cuthbertson
Director
Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services

c. Tracey Mill, Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial Services Division