



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memo No.  
2019-M-006

Memorandum to Council



Staff



Committee

Subject: Fire Smart

Agenda Date: December 13, 2018

Attachments:

**RECOMMENDATION**

This memorandum is:

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To be received for information

OR

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To recommend that:

Temagami Council request a presentation by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Fire and Aviation, on the benefits of becoming a FireSmart community,  
**And further that;** members of the planning committee and the Emergency Management Program Committee be encouraged to attend the presentation

**INFORMATION**

The threat from Forest Fires, and the possibility for loss of life and property has never been more evident that it has this year. Our climate is changing, forest fires are starting easier and spreading at speeds that are astonishing seasoned firefighters. This is no more evident than in California in the past few months, with the tragic loss of life and obliteration of entire communities by forest fires.

Temagami experienced the threat of a fast moving fire on July 8<sup>th</sup> this year. Had the province not had an unprecedented number of water bombers in the NE region that day, there is no doubt in my mind that our community would look a lot different than it does today.

FireSmart is a nationally recognized program designed to reduce the potential of property loss from forest fires by reducing fuel load and creating defensible spaces. While property owners can implement a number of strategies towards protecting their property, I believe the municipality MUST take a leadership role advocating all the principles of FireSmart, rather than promoting the retention of forest vegetation (fuel) as currently advocated in the official plan.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, North Bay fire and aviation are willing to work in partnership with the fire departments and community members to become a Fire Smart community.

As Fire Chief, I strongly support the principles of FireSmart, and recommend Council request a presentation by MNRF on the challenges, benefits and funding opportunities available in becoming a Fire Smart community and developing a strategy that works for Temagami.

**Alternative course of action:**

Retain status quo.

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

Jim Sanderson,  
Temagami Fire Chief

Name, Position

Name, Position