

Fall pile burning taking place to reduce wildfire risk

Wildland Fire Management and FireSmart contractors burn organic matter each fall to reduce future wildfire risk. This year's work is underway. Cooler temperatures mean that these burning operations will carry as little public risk as possible, but you will likely still see smoke if you live near one while it takes place.

The boreal forest that covers most of Yukon has a special relationship with fire. Forested areas are replaced by natural cycles of disturbances like wildfires every 50 to 200 years. In areas near communities where fires can do the most harm, we try to put out every wildfire. But when we stop wildfires from replacing forested areas, forests keep growing and become denser. This is a risk to the community because dense forest has a higher chance of catching fire and burning more intensely.

In the same way that we encourage homeowners to tidy their yards in the spring and fall, pile burning is an effective way to dispose of landscape-level organic matter so it can't be burned by an uncontrolled wildfire in the future.

Pile burning will take place at [the following locations](#) over the next month:

- Whitehorse International Airport, in the gully between the airport and Range Road
- Lobird, north of the neighbourhood near Hamilton Boulevard
- Porter Creek, between Grove and Pine Streets
- Copper Haul Road, in the Whitehorse South Fuel Break
- Mary Lake Shaded Fuel Break
- Wolf Creek, behind Harbottle Drive along the train tracks
- Pine Ridge, behind Logan Road
- Spruce Hill, at the end of Engelman Drive
- McLean Lake, on the Quarry Road
- Porter Creek, between Wann Road and Holly Street and behind Ponderosa Drive (smoke may be visible from Mountainview and Whistle Bend)
- Copper Ridge, behind Winze Place and Drift Drive
- Riverdale, between the Chadburn Lake Road and on the ridge behind Boswell Crescent and Firth Road
- Hidden Valley, between the Alaska Highway, North Klondike Highway and McPherson Road and near Parent Lane and McGundy Road
- Ibex Valley, near Scout Lake Road

- Mount Lorne, near Kookatsoon Road
- Marsh Lake, near Judas Creek Drive by the Marsh Lake Community Centre

To ensure that the community knows that these burns are taking place, Wildland Fire Management is:

- Buying radio advertisements
- Posting on social media, including in community groups when possible
- Notifying community associations when possible
- Leaving notices at homes located right beside burning
- Sharing a wildfire bulletin with the media and the public

If you see flames and believe it's a wildfire, call 1-888-798-FIRE (3473). If you aren't sure or have questions about this work, please call the wildfire information hotline 867-393-7415.

Contact:

Mike Fancie, fire information officer
867-393-7415 or yukonfireinfo@yukon.ca

