

## Wildfire Prep Resources - Foothills County Div. 4 Councillor Suzanne Oel

**WILDFIRES close to home!** In our heavily-treed west end of Foothills County, a fire could start at your own property, at a near-by property, along the highway or in the neighbouring Kananaskis, just a short distance to the west.

**You could be the FIRST to see a FIRE!** If you see an active fire flame, and you are concerned that the fire has not been reported, please call it in to 9-1-1 and report it to 310-FIRE (3473) if it appears to be coming from Kananaskis. 9-1-1 dispatches our local fire departments. Reporting the fire to 310-FIRE gets Alberta Forestry involved. They are responsible for wildland fire response in neighbouring Kananaskis and coordinate response along the Foothills County/Kananaskis boundary with Foothills Fire Department and our partners.

**How to get a WILDFIRE ALERT on your cell phone:** The “Alberta Emergency Alert App” is the primary alert App for all types of emergencies. You can subscribe to notices from “Foothills” and “Kananaskis” “locations” (and anywhere else you choose). If a fire reaches a threshold where there is concern for the fire escalating and affecting people and/or structures, the municipality(s) is notified by the attending fire departments. In the case of Foothills County, this would be the Foothills Fire Department and our partners. In the case of the Kananaskis Improvement District, Alberta Forestry provides notification. The affected municipality will immediately write an emergency alert message and send it out through the Alberta Emergency Alert App. You can download the App here: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-emergency-alert.aspx>

In preparation for response to fires and other emergencies, inter-municipal collaboration plans and emergency response plans are in place, where municipalities act in accordance with Alberta Emergency Management protocols. At the ground level, that shows up with fire departments and potentially mutual aid partners arriving on-scene to assist with the necessary action.

**Check out Wildfire Apps & Online Maps:** You can stay informed about wildfires in Alberta and in B.C. through their Apps or online maps via your computer. You can download the “Alberta Wildfire App” to your phone and enable push notifications. Note that the Alberta wildfire dashboard with the latest wildfire news is updated every three minutes. Be sure that you have the latest version of the Wildfire App: [https://open.alberta.ca/blog/?page\\_id=206](https://open.alberta.ca/blog/?page_id=206)

AB Wildfire Map online: <https://www.alberta.ca/wildfire-status.aspx>

BC Wildfire Map online: <https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map>

**Stay Informed:** You can request updates about the “Calgary Forest Area”, including Kananaskis directly west of us, by signing up for email notifications: <https://srd.web.alberta.ca/calgary-area-update>

Find road conditions: <https://511.alberta.ca/>

Find out where the smoke is: <https://firesmoke.ca/>

Find Fire Ban status: <https://www.albertafirebans.ca/>

**Be Prepared:** Consider “FireSmarting” your home and property.

<https://www.firesmartalberta.ca/> (See the checklist & guide, here.)

<https://firesmartcanada.ca/>

<https://www.alberta.ca/wildfire-preparedness.aspx>

<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-en.aspx>

**Other Considerations:** To ensure the best emergency service response to your property, please keep driveways clear in all seasons, visibly post your 9-1-1 Address sign, register your gate code with Foothills Regional 9-1-1, and beware of accidentally starting a fire.

**Foothills County Study:** Link to the study: [https://www.foothillscountyab.ca/sites/default/files/2022-04/2021-04-FoothillsCountyNW\\_WildfireMitigationStrategy.pdf](https://www.foothillscountyab.ca/sites/default/files/2022-04/2021-04-FoothillsCountyNW_WildfireMitigationStrategy.pdf)

**Disclaimer:** While I have done my best to prepare this summary accurately, I may have forgotten something or made errors. S.O. 2025