

Building a cabin? Do it the right way!



You can do a lot to "fireproof" your own cabin by cleaning up the forest around it. Treetops and branches left on the survey line, dry deadwood on the ground and thick underbrush all produce intense heat in a fire. And dead trees attract lightning; cut them down.

If you can't walk through the timber around your cabin, thin it out by removing small or sickly trees. Clear enough that the tops, or crowns and lower branches of trees don't touch. Prune lower branches to a height of 1 or 2 metres to keep fire out of the crowns.

Don't burn down before moving in!



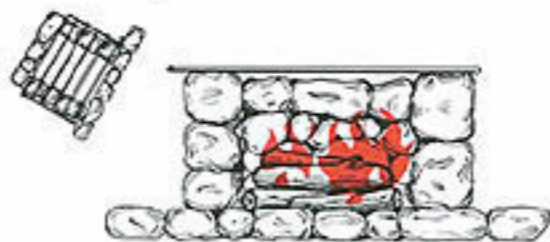
While you're building, and after, keep your yard clear of scrap lumber and other hazardous material. It can provide a "ladder" for flames to reach your cabin, even if you've cleared your property. Keep fuels well away from the cabin, and don't store wood under it. If you have propane tanks, make sure the safety valves point away from the cabin.

Build a safe incinerator ...



If you can, haul out your garbage to a dump. If you can't, build a proper incinerator out of a metal barrel in good condition with a heavy steel mesh screen (no more than a 7 mm. mesh.) Clear the ground around the incinerator for at least two metres ... and don't have an incinerator closer than five metres from standing trees.

... and a barbecue or fire pit ...



Everyone loves a campfire at the cabin. Make sure yours isn't a cabin fire. Build fires only on solid rock or cleared ground or in a fire pit, and

douse your fire afterwards. If you can pick up the embers or briquettes after they're out, you know they're out! And never leave a campfire unattended.

... and if fire should strike, know what to do!

- A shovel, axe and water pail should always be handy.
- Everyone should know where to go in case of a real emergency. If you choose a nearby lake and you haven't a boat, wade out and sit down. Don't try to tread water in our cold lakes.
- Know the location of the nearest phone or CB radio ... and the shortest route to your neighbors.
- Notify the nearest RCMP detachment or Northern Affairs office or call Zenith 2001.
- Keep calm and stay together.
- If you can, make a fire line, scraping down to rock or mineral soil at least one metre in front of the fire. That may well stop it.
- If you can't control the fire, follow your evacuation plan. Warn your neighbors, don't try to re-enter wooden buildings ... and when suppression crews and aircraft arrive, clear the area.

Still not sure?

If you need help in your fire prevention planning, give us a call. We'll be glad to help. Please contact:

Forest Management
Ph: 867-872-7700

HOLD IT!

Have an evacuation plan... just in case

Slash (branches etc.) on cutline can be a deadly fuel for fire

Use a fire pit for campfires

Dead trees attract lightning. Cut them down.

Use a proper, screened incinerator ... and don't burn in high winds

Before you build, pick the best site ... from a fire safety standpoint as well as for the view it offers. We'll be glad to advise you.

Any deadwood on the ground is a prime hazard

Treetops which touch are the way fires "crown"

Remember ... make sure fires are out and don't smoke in the bush!

Prune branches 1 to 2 metres from ground; clear out scrub or sickly trees. You should be able to walk through trees around your cabin ... and fire won't if trees are separated.

A litter-free yard and trimmed and pruned trees will give you a cooling breeze ... and a lot fewer bugs!

Junk in yard or lumber piled under cabin are an invitation to fire

Have a shovel, axe and water pail handy

Thick underbrush can generate a hot fire. Trees which touch each other allow flames to spread with frightening speed.

Store fuels well away from cabin, in a cleared area

