

# Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

## Structure Assessment Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Is this assessment being conducted for insurance purposes? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, check with your insurance company to determine what form is required by them.

Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Structure: Primary Seasonal Outbuilding Care Facility Hotel/Lodge/Camp Public Facility Other

Number of Occupants: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Additional Structures & type: \_\_\_\_\_

Responding Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Wildfire mitigation is intended to reduce risk, not eliminate the risk of wildfire. It is important to note that wildfire is a natural and inevitable phenomenon in Montana. It is a dynamic event influenced by several factors including weather (winds, temperature, relative humidity), topography (steepness of a slope, the direction that slope faces, and terrain features such as canyons and saddles), and fuels (light or heavy loading, height, continuity, and volatility) as well as human activity, response times, and seasonal trends. *There will always be some risk of wildfire regardless of mitigation efforts and structural characteristics.*

This assessment is designed to identify vulnerabilities around the home and offer recommendations for improvement.

In a wildfire situation, home ignitions can occur in multiple ways including:

- 1) **Firebrands or ember-wash** – This is the most common way that homes ignite during a wildfire. Wildfires may produce high winds that loft burning fuel particles up to a mile ahead of a fire. This often explains how fires grow so quickly. Closer to the fire, small embers swirl around like a blizzard and accumulate in corners and crevices. These may ignite combustible materials such as needles, leaves, wooden decks, siding, or enter through gaps, cracks, or vents in an attic, soffit, or crawlspace to ignite combustible materials within.
- 2) **Radiant & convective heat** – When intense enough, heat produced by a fire will ignite the home or preheat siding and other materials which then ignite more readily when in direct contact with flame or embers.
- 3) **Direct flame** – Vegetation or fuels near the home ignite, subsequently igniting the home.

*Provide a sketch or photo of the home and property. Include distinguishing features, topography, predominant wind direction, water sources, propane tank and access routes:*

Topography and Terrain	
<b>Slope within 150 feet of structure:</b> 0-20% 21-40% > 40%  <b>Structure setback from the edge of the slope:</b> Adequate > 150 feet Inadequate < 150 feet	<b>Position of structure on the slope:</b> Valley bottom or lower slope Mid-slope Upper-slope Ridge top/chimney
Roof Assembly	
<b>Material:</b> Metal or tile Asphalt/composition shingles Other noncombustible material Untreated wood shakes	<b>Cleanliness:</b> No combustible material Scattered combustible material < .5 in. depth Clogged gutter, combustible material > .5 in. depth
Eaves	
<b>Type:</b> Boxed-in or fire-treated Non-boxed and not treated	
Exterior Walls & Siding	
<b>Material:</b> Noncombustible or metal Log or heavy timber Smooth wood or vinyl siding Wood shake or ember receptive siding.	
Vents	
<b>All structure vents have:</b> Noncombustible ¼ - 1/8 inch protective screen Noncombustible screen > ¼ inch No screens	
Attached Combustibles	
<b>Attached combustibles are:</b> Not present or clear of receptive fuel Have receptive fuel adjacent Have receptive fuel below	
Vegetation	
<b>Ember resistant zone within 3 feet of structure:</b> Y or N Y or N	<b>Propane clearance:</b> Yes or not present No

<p><b>Position of structure on the slope:</b>  Valley bottom or lower slope  Mid-slope  Upper-slope  Ridge top/chimney</p> <p><b>Tree canopy 0-30 feet from structure:</b>  None  Deciduous - good separation  Deciduous – continuous  Mixed – good separation  Mixed – continuous  Coniferous – good separation  Coniferous - continuous</p> <p><b>Ladder fuels 0-30 feet from structure:</b>  Absent  Scattered  Abundant</p> <p><b>Combustibles 30-100 feet from structure:</b>  None  Light  Moderate  Heavy</p> <p><b>Surface fuels 30-100 feet from structure:</b>  Lawn, mowed or no material  Tall grass, not mowed or cut  Brush/light dead wood material  Heavy down woody material</p>	<p><b>Combustibles 0-30 feet from structure:</b>  None  Light  Moderate  Heavy</p> <p><b>Surface fuels 0-30 feet from structure:</b>  Lawn, mowed or no material  Tall grass, not mowed or cut  Brush/light dead wood material  Heavy down woody material</p> <p><b>Tree canopy 30-100 feet from structure:</b>  None  Deciduous - good separation  Deciduous – continuous  Mixed – good separation  Mixed – continuous  Coniferous – good separation  Coniferous – continuous</p> <p><b>Ladder fuels 30-100 feet from structure:</b>  Absent  Scattered  Abundant</p> <p><b>Heavy and/or continuous conifer trees 100-200 feet from structure:</b>  Y or N</p>
<b>Water Source</b>	
<p><b>Onsite water:</b>  Pressurized hydrant  Dry hydrants  Creek/pond/lake  Accessible swimming pool  None or not sufficient</p>	
<b>Access</b>	
<p><b>Address visible:</b>  Y or N</p>	<p><b>Adequate turnaround:</b>  Y or N</p>

<p><b>Locked gate blocking access:</b>  No  Yes and fire dept has access  Yes and fire dept does not have access</p> <p><b>Community Ingress/Egress:</b>  Two or more roads in/out  One road in/out</p> <p><b>Width of driveway:</b>  Inaccessible  12 feet or less  13 feet or more</p>	<p><b>Bridge weight limits:</b>  Y or N  Unknown  Not applicable</p> <p><b>Length of driveway:</b>  Inaccessible  &lt; 50 feet  50 to 150 feet  150 to 500 feet  500 feet or more</p>
<b>Risk to Firefighters</b>	
<p><b>Access:</b>  Y or N</p> <p><b>Overhead powerlines:</b>  Y or N</p> <p><b>Septic:</b>  Y or N</p> <p><b>Poor Escape:</b>  Y or N</p>	<p><b>Propane or gas:</b>  Y or N</p> <p><b>Animals:</b>  Y or N</p> <p><b>HazMat:</b>  Y or N</p>