Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

STRUCTURE EVALUATION FORM

Date: _______________________

Is this assessment being conducted for insurance purposes? □ Yes □ No

If yes, check with your insurance company to determine what form is required by them. This evaluation is advisory only. By completing this evaluation, the MT DNRC accepts no liability for any loss, damage, or injury resulting from a wildfire event.

If you are a wildfire and/or forestry professional: Please ensure this evaluation data is entered into Situation Analyst Montana (SAM) www.samontana.org/, once entered, a risk rating will be identified and you will be able to access various reports. A homeowner report is one of the options. This report includes the evaluation results, risk rating, and educational information on why certain factors are important and what can be done. SAM offers the option of printing the report for the homeowner or copying and pasting the Internet address/link into an email to share with the homeowner.

If you are a home owner: You can utilize this form to evaluate your structure, to determine the risk rating you will need to request an evaluation be conducted by a wildfire and/or forestry professional. To request an assessment visit www.dnrc.mt.gov. To receive educational information on why certain factors are important in this evaluation and what can be done, visit www.dnrc.mt.gov.

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: _______________________

Special Needs Resident: □ Yes □ No Notes: _____________________________

Responding Fire Department: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Assessor: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________

Wildfire risk reduction actions are 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 vegetation, also known as fuels (light or heavy loading, height, continuity, and volatility). Human activity, response times, and seasonal trends also play a role. There will always be some risk of wildfire regardless of actions taken and structural characteristics.

It is important to take steps to prepare your structure and property for wildfires with the mindset that firefighters will not be on site and the actions you take now will increase your homes chances of survival.

This evaluation is designed to identify vulnerabilities around the structure. In a wildfire situation, structure 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 ignites more readily when in direct contact with flame or embers.

3. Direct flame – Vegetation or fuels near the home ignite, subsequently igniting the home.
### ACCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address visible from the road:</th>
<th>Community ingress/egress:</th>
<th>Length of driveway:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Yes</td>
<td>□ Two or more roads in/out</td>
<td>□ Inaccessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ No</td>
<td>□ One road in/out</td>
<td>□ &lt; 50 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate turnaround:</td>
<td></td>
<td>□ 50 - 150 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>□ 150 - 500 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ No</td>
<td></td>
<td>□ 500 feet or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locked gate:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Yes. Fire dept. has access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Yes. Fire dept. does not have access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slope within 150 feet of structure:</th>
<th>Roof cleanliness:</th>
<th>Attached combustibles are:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ 0-10%</td>
<td>□ No combustible material</td>
<td>□ Not present or clear of receptive fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 11-25%</td>
<td>□ Scattered combustible material &lt; .5 inch depth</td>
<td>□ Have receptive fuel adjacent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ &gt; 26%</td>
<td>□ Clogged gutters and/or combustible material &gt; .5 inch depth</td>
<td>□ Have receptive fuel below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure setback from the edge of the slope:</td>
<td>Eaves:</td>
<td>*If combustibles/receptive fuels are adjacent and below, select the option that is most vulnerable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Adequate &gt; 150 feet</td>
<td>□ Boxed-in and/or fire-treated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Inadequate &lt; 150 feet</td>
<td>□ Non-boxed and/or not treated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position of structure on the slope:</td>
<td>□ None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Valley bottom or lower slope</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Mid-slope</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Upper-slope</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Ridge top/chimney</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roof material:</td>
<td>Exterior wall material:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Metal or tile</td>
<td>□ Noncombustible material or metal siding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Asphalt/composition shingles</td>
<td>□ Log or heavy timber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Other noncombustible material</td>
<td>□ Smooth wood or vinyl siding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Untreated wood shakes</td>
<td>□ Wood shake or ember receptive siding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attached combustibles are:</th>
<th>All structure vents have:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Not present or clear of receptive fuel</td>
<td>□ Noncombustible 1/4-1/8 inch protective screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Have receptive fuel adjacent</td>
<td>□ Noncombustible screen &gt; 1/4 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Have receptive fuel below</td>
<td>□ No screens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*If combustibles/receptive fuels are adjacent and below, select the option that is most vulnerable.</td>
<td>*If you are not sure or unable to determine something, leave it blank.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Evaluation was added into SAM: □ No □ Yes. If so, date: ___________________________
## VEGETATION

### 0-30 feet

**Ember resistant zone within 3 feet of structure:**
- □ Yes
- □ No

**Combustibles 0-30 feet from structure:**
- □ None
- □ Light
- □ Moderate
- □ Heavy

**Propane clearance:**
- □ Yes or not present
- □ No

**Surface fuels 0-30 feet from structure:**
- □ Lawn, mowed or no material
- □ Tall grass, not mowed or cut
- □ Brush/light dead wood material
- □ Heavy down woody material

**Ladder fuels 0-30 feet from structure:**
- □ Absent
- □ Scattered
- □ Abundant

### 31-100 feet

**Tree canopy 31-100 feet from structure:**
- □ None
- □ Deciduous - good separation
- □ Deciduous - continuous
- □ Mixed - good separation
- □ Mixed - continuous
- □ Coniferous - good separation
- □ Coniferous - continuous

**Surface fuels 31-100 feet from structure:**
- □ Lawn, mowed or no material
- □ Tall grass, not mowed or cut
- □ Brush/light dead wood material
- □ Heavy down woody material

**Ladder fuels 31–100 feet from structure:**
- □ Absent
- □ Scattered
- □ Abundant

### Greater than 100 feet

**Heavy and/or continuous vegetation 100-200 feet from structure:**
- □ Yes
- □ No

## SAFETY

**Access risk:**
- □ Yes
- □ No

**Propane or gas risk:**
- □ Yes
- □ No

**On-site water source:**
- □ Pressurized hydrant
- □ Dry hydrants
- □ Creek/Lake/Pond/Pool
- □ Well water
- □ None or not sufficient
- □ Other

**Overhead power-line risk:**
- □ Yes
- □ No

**Animal/pet risk:**
- □ Yes
- □ No

**Septic tank risk:**
- □ Yes
- □ No

**HazMat risk:**
- □ Yes
- □ No

**Safety Notes:**

- ________________________________
- __________________________________________
- __________________________________________
- __________________________________________
- __________________________________________
- __________________________________________

**Poor escape route risk:**
- □ Yes
- □ No