

Protecting your home or camp from fire

**By Norm Gladish
MNR Fire Prevention
Technician**

We all lose indirectly when any of Ontario's forests are lost needlessly to fire. But if your

home is in or near a wooded area, the potential for personal loss becomes much greater.

Whether it is a year-round residence, summer cottage or camp, a home in the forest is vulnerable

to forest fire, it needs special attention.

Protecting your forest home from fire requires the same common sense applied to all fire prevention. You have anticipate hazards. Then you must either eliminate or prepare for them.

Forest fires are fuelled by dry vegetation. Clearing a fuel-free area around your buildings will serve to create a fire break. It can

prevent ground fires from creeping close to your house.

Removal of coniferous trees close to buildings will increase the effectiveness of the break. Other trees within 20 to 30 metres of buildings should be thinned out to at least three metres apart. Prune ever-green branches and remove papery birch bark as high up as you can reach.

Don't allow underbrush, dry

twigs and dead branches to accumulate on the ground, particularly under buildings or porches. Planting grass, clover or plants with high moisture content is a good idea, but keep grass and weeds cut short.

It may be convenient to pile fire wood close to your door, but the dry wood is a fire hazard. Store it away from the house. Gas, oil, and other flammables should also be kept away from living quarters.

Don't let your house be the cause of forest fires. Keep chimneys in good repair, especially spark arrestors. While inspecting the chimney, sweep forest litter from the roof. During high fire danger, put out fires in stoves or fireplaces before leaving home.

Rural residents should be prepared to take initial action on small fires. With a little fire suppression equipment on hand, you can stop or slow a fire's spread until help arrives.

If you don't have running water, pack pumps are an expensive suppression tool that you might consider acquiring.

A cheaper, but less effective alternative is to keep ready, a 45 gallon drum (200 litres) full of water and a small pail with which to apply it. Other useful tools not restricted to fire fighting are a long-handled, pointed shovel, rake, axe and chain saw. A ladder long enough to access the roof could prove invaluable.

Most people-caused forest fires can be prevented through common sense, caution and following simple fire-safety rules. If you live in the forest, a responsible attitude is your best insurance.



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ANNUAL MEETING The McCausland Hospital

The Board of Governors wishes to remind the public of the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Corporation on Wednesday, June 21st, 1989. To become a voting member of the Corporation, persons must purchase an annual membership (\$5.00), or a life membership (\$100.00 in any given year), 30 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting. Memberships may be purchased at the Administration Office of the McCausland Hospital. Nominations for election as Governor at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation may be made only by:

- (a) the Nominating Committee of the Board, or
- (b) Members of the Corporation provided that each nomination by Members
 - (i) is in writing and signed by at least two Members in good standing;
 - (ii) is accompanied by a written declaration signed by the nominee that he/she will serve as a Governor in accordance with these by-laws if elected; and
 - (iii) is submitted to and received by the Secretary at least thirty days before the date of the Annual Meeting.

If any Member of the Corporation, subject to Hospital By-Laws, wishes to stand as a Governor, please notify the Administration Office at 825-3273, and leave his/her name for the Nominating Committee.

Place: Birchwood Terrace Lounge Time: 2000 hours
Hwy 17 June 21, 1989
Terrace Bay, Ontario

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