



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

2023 FireSmart Program What's New

“Strengthening FireSmart within the
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District”

Presented by Randy Thoen – FireSmart Coordinator



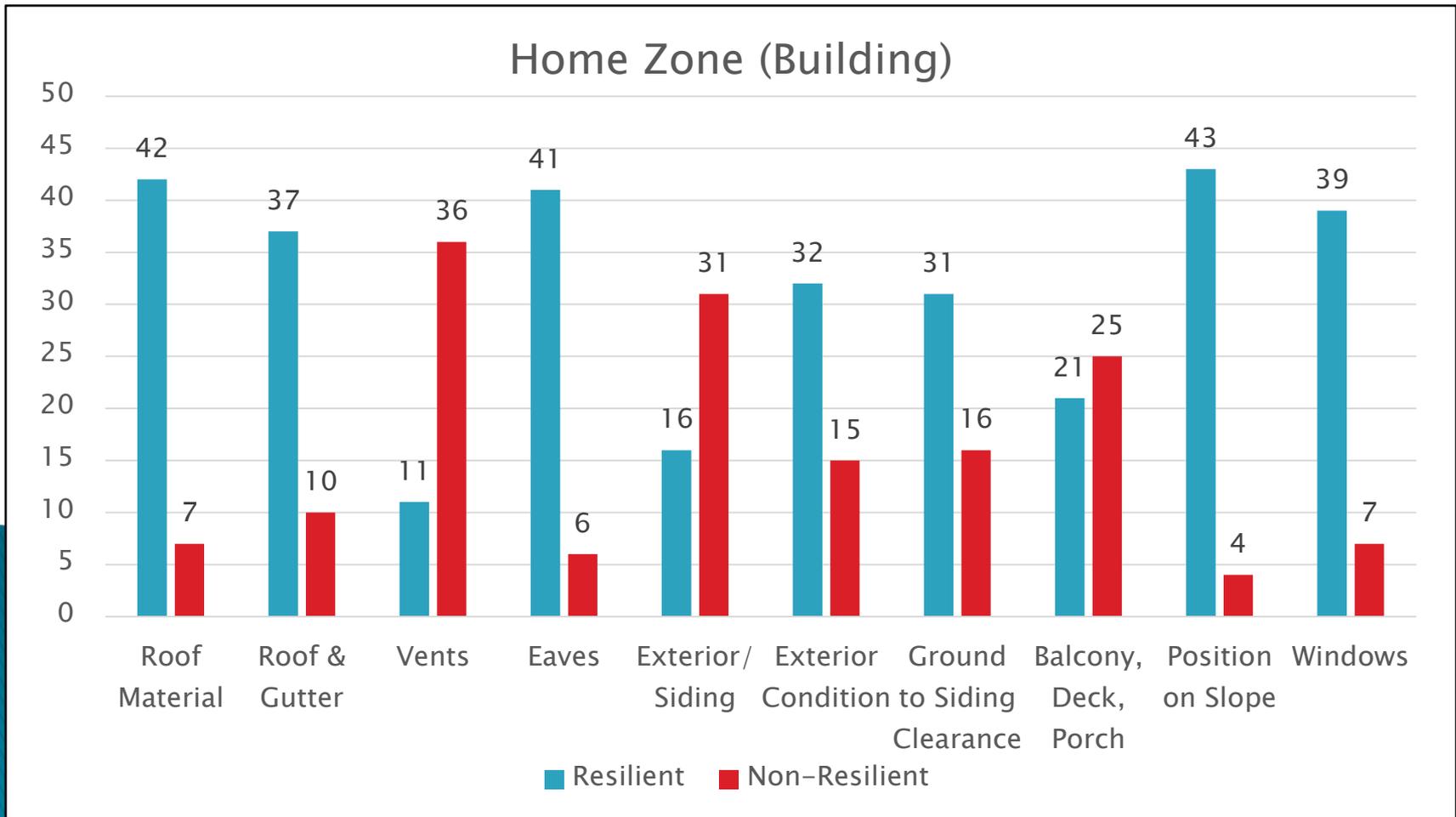
Presentation Purpose

- Provide brief overview of FireSmart activities within the ACRD for 2022.
- Provide an outline of FireSmart Grant priorities for 2023-25.



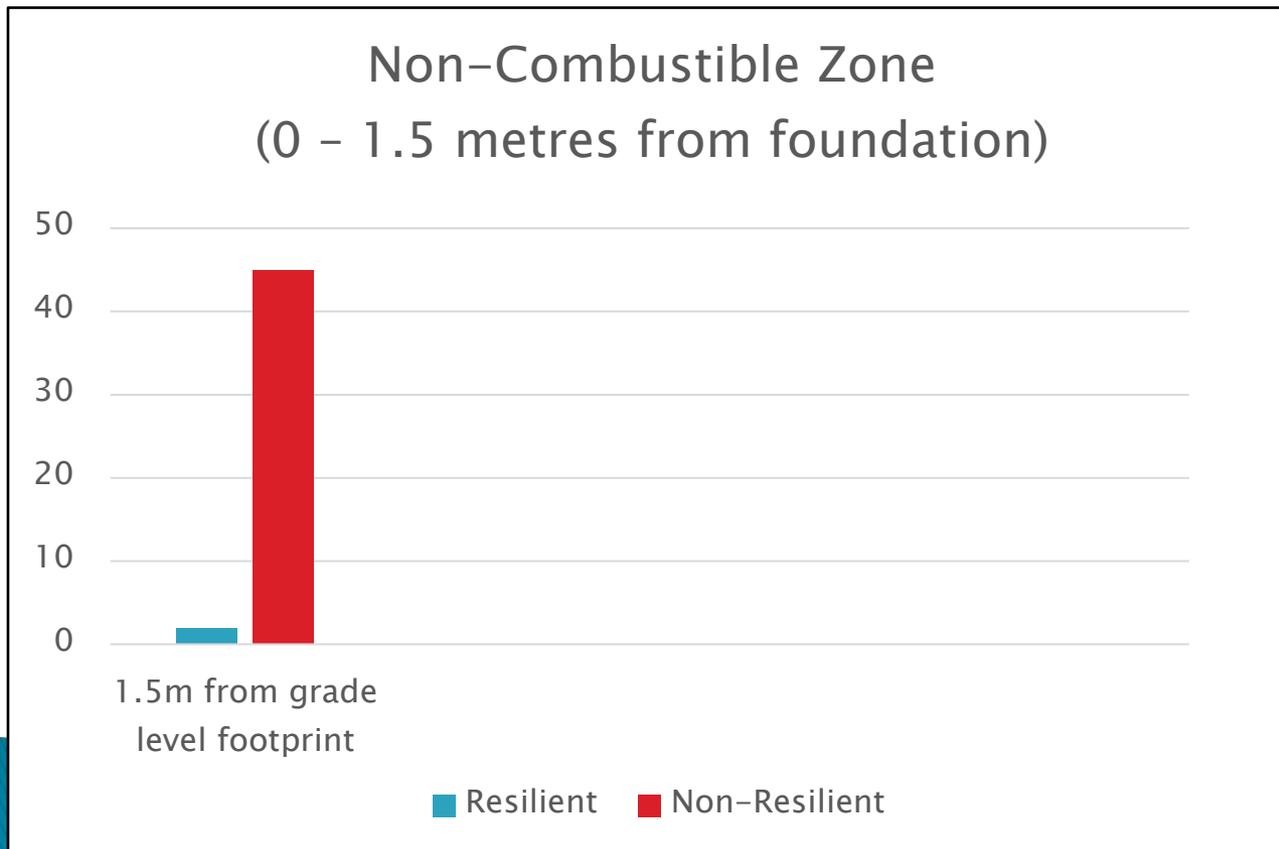
Overview of FireSmart 2022

47 Residential Properties Assessed with an average total score of 199.6





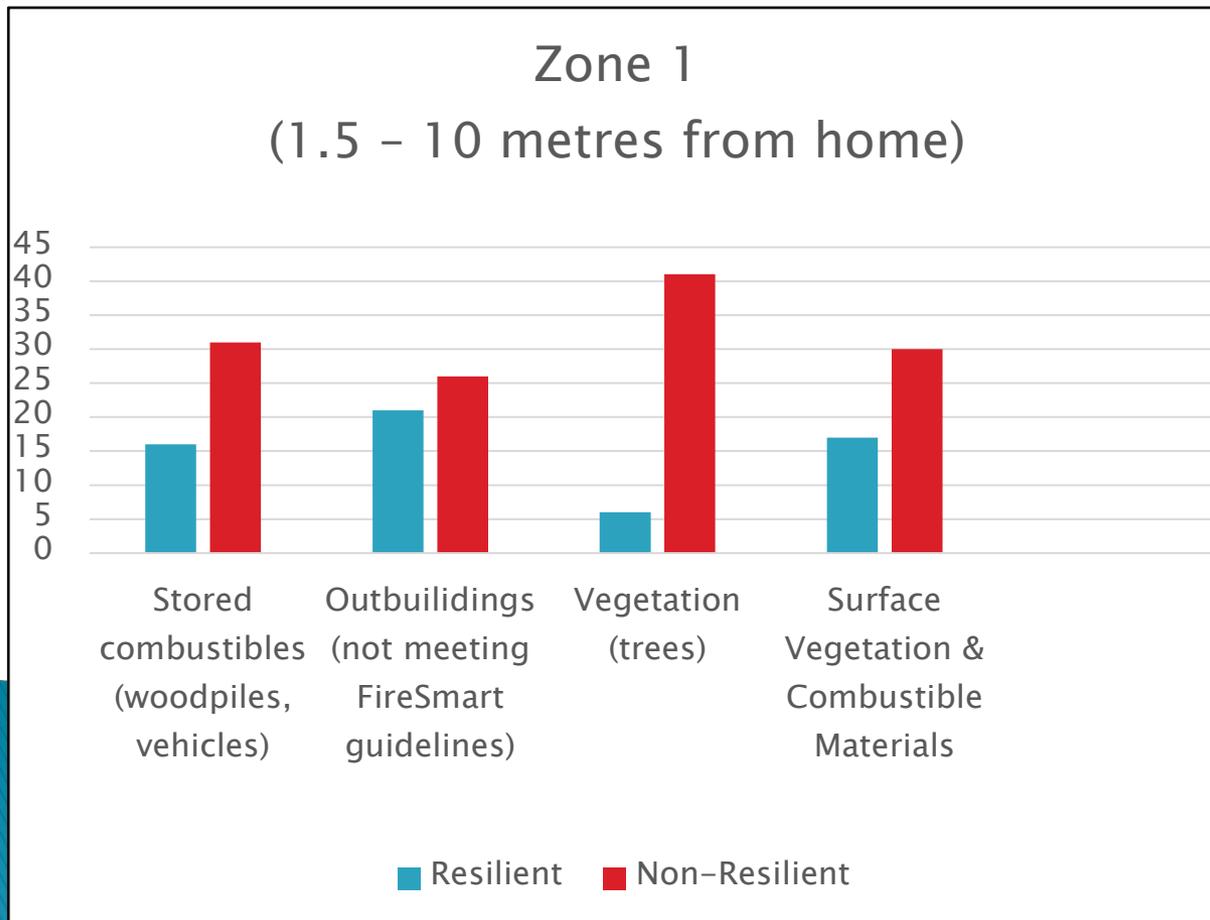
Overview of FireSmart 2022



1.5m from the ground-level exterior footprint of the structure including any attachments or extensions



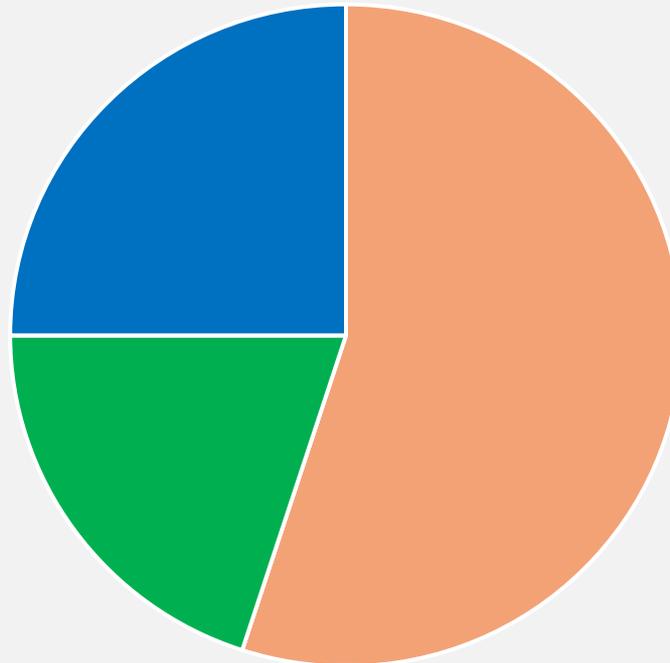
Overview of FireSmart 2022





Overview of FireSmart 2022

2022 FireSmart Residential Rebates



ACRD Port Alberni Hupacasath Tseshaht



FireSmart Grant Priorities

The 2023 Grant application was submitted as a Regional Project by the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (including all 6 electoral areas) jointly with City of Port Alberni, Hupacasath First Nation and Tseshaht First Nation.

Our project continues to emphasize activities that improve public awareness, education and encourage mitigation action. We will build capacity through training, cultivate inter-agency cooperation and foster cross-jurisdictional collaboration.

Central to this project is the FireSmart Coordinator role to provide expertise and increase our capacity to strengthen our FireSmart Program.



FireSmart Grant Priorities

Recognizing the importance of FireSmart individual residential properties and understanding that this has a tremendous collective impact to help reduce the risk of wildfire for our community, we are emphasizing educational tools, preparedness methods and mitigation activities through:

- Residential Home Assessments – free and confidential
- Residential Rebate Program – up to \$1,000.00 available
- Curbside Yard Waste Pickup – free, two loads

A high priority is to develop a FireSmart Recognized Neighbourhood Program where a local neighbourhood committee, with the assistance of a Local FireSmart Representative, develops a neighbourhood plan and maintains it through annual events.



FireSmart Grant Priorities

Mitigation Work on Critical Infrastructure is a high priority. In 2022 assessments were carried out on critical infrastructure in the Alberni Valley and Bamfield.

Recommendations on mitigation work from these critical infrastructure assessments were prioritized and 10 sites received funding during the 2023-25 grant cycle.

Critical Infrastructure Assessments and Community Asset Assessments will be conducted on 18 sites during the current 2 year grant cycle. Mitigation work identified from these assessments will form part of the 2025 grant intake application.



FireSmart Grant Priorities

A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan for Long Beach Electoral Area, including surrounding areas of Salmon Beach Village, Port Albion, Millstream and Willowbrae, was completed during the 2022 grant cycle.

The current Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Alberni Valley & Bamfield did not include the Electoral Area of Long Beach. Completion of the CWRP for Long Beach Electoral Area completed the wildfire planning process for the entire region.

Review and updates to these plans will be required in a cycle of approximately 5 years with the Alberni Valley/Bamfield CWPP due for review and updating in 2025.



FireSmart Grant Priorities

We will again host a Farm Wildfire Preparedness Workshop(s). Our region is an expansive area that includes many types of farms.

Farm Preparedness will increase our community's overall wildfire resiliency and it will help connect farm owners with one another, foster cooperation and encourage emergency coordination.

The Ministry of Agriculture is continuing with their Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture Program. Farmers and ranchers can reduce the risks from extreme weather by accessing funding for risk assessments and infrastructure upgrades. The wildfire portion of this program is tied to FireSmart assessments.



FireSmart Grant Priorities

We will be hosting Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Training for regional Local FireSmart Representatives. This is part of the FireSmart Home Partners Program which is designed to engage with homeowners in voluntary wildfire mitigation activities.

This training will also enable completion of assessments to identify solutions that a neighbourhood can implement. Once a neighbourhood is recognized, they form a Neighbourhood FireSmart Committee which maintains the FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan and tracks progress. This committee plans FireSmart events each year that are dedicated to a local FireSmart project.



FireSmart Grant Priorities

Wildfire Preparedness Day(s) are a high priority. These local events will promote wildfire readiness to residents within our communities. We have 6 Electoral areas spread out regionally as well as two First Nation partners with different needs.

The events are intended to prepare residents and our community for the wildfire season. We will take these opportunities to teach residents how to FireSmart their homes and properties, which will increase our overall wildfire resiliency.



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

Questions?

Randy Thoen
FireSmart Coordinator

Phone: 250-720-2700
Cell: 250-720-9327
Email: rthoen@acrd.bc.ca



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Regional District

3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 2E3 • www.acrd.bc.ca