



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
3400 – 30 Street
Vernon, BC
V1T 5E6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 28, 2021

MEDIA CONTACT: Christy Poirier, Manager, Communications & Grants

TELEPHONE: 250-550-3539

Vernon Fire Rescue Services introduces FireSmart™ program coordinator

Vernon Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) is pleased to introduce Vernon's first FireSmart™ program coordinator. Alan Hofsink joins VFRS with more than 20 years' experience in emergency services. He will be focused on community outreach and education programming.

"We have been sharing and implementing FireSmart principles in Vernon for a number of years, particularly throughout the wildland urban interface," said Fire Chief David Lind. "A lot of great work has taken place at a broad community level. Having Alan join the team will help us focus more efforts on individual neighbourhoods and more directly empower homeowners to take steps to FireSmart their own properties to reduce the risk of impacts from fire."

Through the expansion of FireSmart program efforts, Vernon residents will be able to learn more about:

- [The FireSmart Canada Neighborhood Recognition Program](#)
- [Home Partners Program](#)
- City-wide FireSmart programs
- The importance of public safety through utilizing FireSmart principles

"Although we are now into autumn and the fire risk has been reduced, we saw so much evidence this summer about the importance of preparing ourselves, our homes and our community to face an emergency," said Hofsink. "Actions can be taken throughout the year to FireSmart your property, including during fall yard cleanup. I'm looking forward to working with residents to talk about the easy and practical ways they can increase safety at home."

For more information about the FireSmart program in Vernon and to see regular updates, please visit the City's website at vernon.ca/firesmart and follow VFRS on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

If Vernon residents have additional questions or are interested in speaking with Alan about the FireSmart program, you can email firesmartcoordinator@vernon.ca.

*FireSmart, Intelli-feu and other associated Marks are trademarks of Partners in Protection Association.



Above: Alan Hofsink joins Vernon Fire Rescue Services as the City of Vernon's first FireSmart program coordinator.