



## Wildfire Interface Development Permits

The purpose of a Wildfire Interface Development Permit (DP) Area is for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity and for the protection of development from hazardous conditions. The Okanagan has a naturally dry climate and a large community interface with forested areas. The risk that wildfire poses to urban development can be managed through policies and mitigation efforts. Choosing the proper building material for your home, reducing fuel accumulation (eg., branches and leaves), and using appropriate landscaping material can help to reduce the risk of wildfire impacting your home and community.

### Where are Wildfire DP Areas Located?

Wildfire DP Areas are designated in the RDCO Official Community Plans (OCP) or in the Joe Rich Rural Land Use Bylaw (RLUB). You can determine if your property is located within a DP Area by

using RDCO GIS maps ([gis-rdco.hub.arcgis.com](https://gis-rdco.hub.arcgis.com)), our DP webpage ([rdco.com/dpa](https://rdco.com/dpa)), or by contacting the RDCO Planning Services:



(250) 469-6227



[planning@rdco.com](mailto:planning@rdco.com)

### Objectives

The objectives of Wildfire Interface DP areas include:

- Reducing the susceptibility of wildfire for new construction or large additions.
- Addressing wildfire risk reduction at time of subdivision.
- Ensure important ecosystem values are addressed in wildfire mitigation activities and recommendations.

### Guidelines

The RDCO guidelines for Wildfire DP Areas are based on the FireSmart Manual developed by Partners in Protection and adopted by the

BC Wildfire Management Branch as well as the RDCO's Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Review the specific guidelines in the RDCO OCPs or Joe Rich RLUB ([rdco.com/ocp](https://rdco.com/ocp)) that include requirements for roofing, exterior walls, chimneys, eaves, vents, windows, balconies, decks and landscaping.

### Exemptions

There are several exemptions where a Wildfire DP is not required. Please see the Exemptions section in the Wildfire DP Area Guidelines of the RDCO Official Community Plans (OCP) or Joe Rich Rural Land Use Bylaw (RLUB).

### Wildfire Covenants

Construction within a Wildfire DP Area typically requires a wildfire covenant prior to building permit issuance. A wildfire covenant can be obtained by a notary public or lawyer. Pick up a blank Wildfire Covenant form at the RDCO office, or find the form online at:

[rdco.com/media/bxwlbkp2/wildfire-covenant-template.pdf](http://rdco.com/media/bxwlbkp2/wildfire-covenant-template.pdf)

If your property already has a wildfire covenant, you can obtain a copy from the BC Land Title & Survey office website ([ltsa.ca](http://ltsa.ca)).

### Professional Reports

Depending on the location and type of proposed development, professional reports may be required before a development permit can be issued. All professional reports submitted with a DP application must comply with the RDCO [Terms of Reference for Professional Reports](#).

### Bonding

When landscaping and/or remedial work is a condition of the DP, the owner or agent shall provide a security deposit in the amount of 125% of the estimated cost of the prescribed works (including monitoring), prior to issuance of the DP. The amount shall be determined by the qualified professional preparing technical reports for the application.

### How Long does the Application Process Take?

DP applications typically take 8 to 10 weeks

Additional information may be requested during the process, which may increase the application processing time. An applicant can considerably reduce any delays by supplying prompt replies with complete information. If Regional Board Review is required for the application, the process typically takes 3-4 months.

## The DP Process

