

Radium Hot Springs FireSmart Year-End Summary for 2025



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Introduction

As we conclude 2025, this report highlights our key initiatives, achievements, and challenges across infrastructure assessments, community engagement, and grant management. 2025 was a year of significant change and growth for the Radium Hot Springs FireSmart program. It included contracting for a FireSmart Coordinator, implementing a rebate program, and increasing outreach. This document is intended to be a concise summary. If you would like more information or to discuss areas of Radium's FireSmart program, please reach out to me. Thanks.

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FireSmart Home Assessments

This year, we focused on conducting comprehensive home assessments to identify, for homeowners, which improvements will most benefit their homes. This program is also critical to support the FireSmart rebate program.

- Enrolled Radium in the FireSmart BC Wildfire Mitigation Program
- The Wildfire Mitigation Program offers several benefits:
 - Comprehensive Home Assessment that is stored electronically on an independent site and is accessible to the homeowner at any time
 - Easy evaluation by the FireSmart Coordinator of assessment status and completion
 - Web presence on the FireSmart BC page
 - Ability to easily complete Reassessments for rebates or certification
 - Supports reporting to the UBCM- CRI program
- Completed a total of 35 FireSmart Assessments, which included 8 Community Infrastructure Assessments and Twenty-Five initial assessments. Eight follow-up assessments (to verify work completion for the rebate) were also completed.

Assessment Statistics

Agency: **Radium Hot Springs**

Status: **Delivered, Completed or Certified**

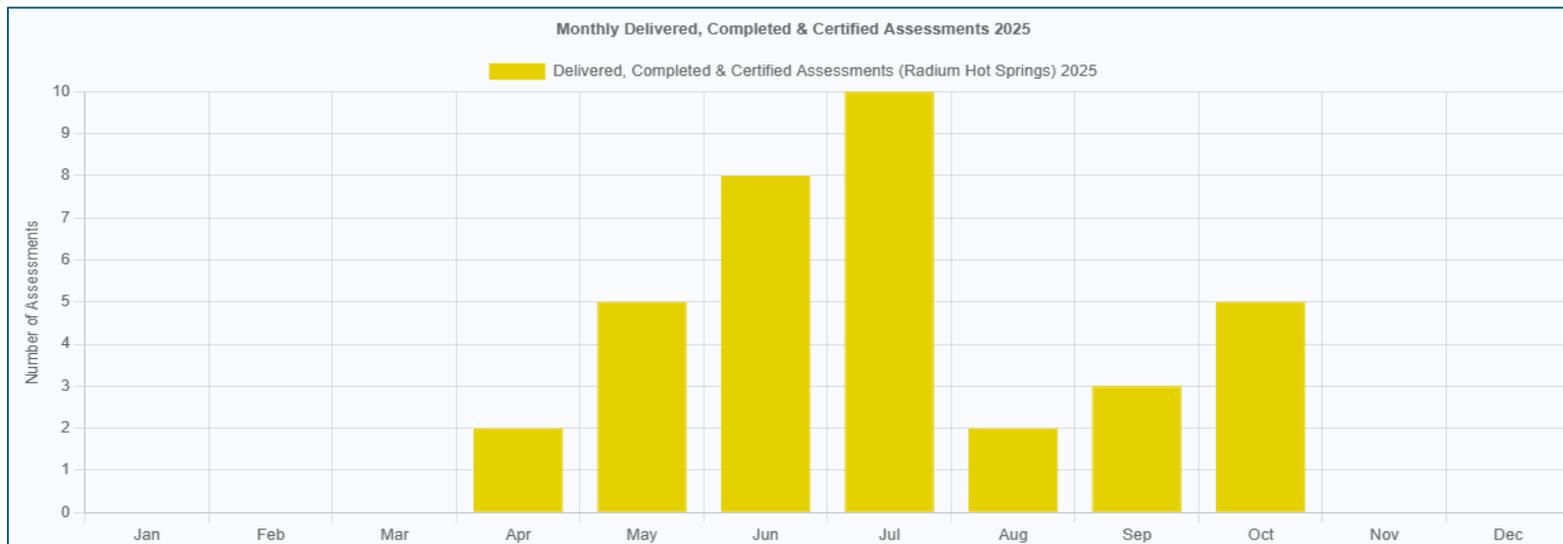
Total Assessments in 2025 (YTD): **35**

Change since last year: **+100.0%**

0 assessments in 2024 (same period)

No assessments were completed in the previous year

*The number of home assessments completed in 2024 isn't available in this chart, as the Wildfire Mitigation program was not used.



Infrastructure Assessments

FireSmart Assessments were completed on eight of Radium's structures: two at the Wastewater plant, Radium Hot Springs Centre, Village Office, Brents Shack, Ice Rink, Firehall, and the Water Treatment plant. All structures have areas for improvement. The minimum goal for 2026 is to complete the Immediate Zone on all buildings.

- Assessments were completed on eight village-owned structures
- Given its location on Crown land west of Radium Hot Springs, the water treatment plant was identified as a particularly vulnerable piece of infrastructure. Planning to protect this is ongoing and includes: a large-scale fuel-reduction treatment to be led by the Ministry of Forests (MoF); completion of building improvements to reduce ignition potential; completion of a smaller, more intensive fuel treatment within 30 metres of the building; and a structure protection plan with sprinklers. The large-scale fuel treatment was identified in the CWRP
- The other buildings are being reviewed, and plans are being developed for them.

Rebates

Radium introduced a rebate program in 2025 that helps cover the cost of completing FireSmart improvements and offers incentives for FireSmart home improvements.

The Village implemented a two-tier rebate system that simplified the process if the rebate was under \$2000.00. It required completing a summary of work to be performed for rebates of \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00 before starting the job.

- Eight rebates were processed during 2025
- A total of \$16,092.00 was refunded to Homeowners who completed work that was recommended in the FireSmart Home Assessment

Electronic Filing and Webpage Development

- The Village implemented standardized emails for FireSmart positions. This brings Radium in line with Provincial norms and enables easier staffing transitions, as contractors/staff aren't using personal email addresses
- Developed a dedicated FireSmart page on the Village webpage that provides information about FireSmart events, contacts, FireSmart BC links, among other things
- Developed an electronic filing system on the Village SharePoint for the storage of all FireSmart documents, safely storing this information and making it available to other staff.

Presentations and Community Engagement

In 2025, the Radium FireSmart program expanded its community outreach role; some areas, such as the Market on Main, were existing programs, and others, such as the “Meet Greet and Eat,” were new to the FireSmart Program.

- Attended Three Markets
- Presentation at the Elk Park Ranch Neighbourhood event
- Attended the Radium Meet, Greet and Eat
- Delivered Presentations to Community groups as requested
- Co-delivered a presentation on FireSmart plants at Winderberry Nursery with FireSmart BC, District of Invermere, and RDEK



We also worked on improving our brand recognition by:

- Purchasing a FireSmart-branded event tent
- Purchasing FireSmart-branded tablecloths for events
- Increased purchasing of FireSmart-branded swag- T-shirts, head coverings, colouring books, etc.

Library Initiatives

- The library received a donation of FireSmart-related books late last year. Outreach will be delivered this spring to increase awareness that the books are available.
- The library will also organize a presentation time slot for the FireSmart Coordinator to deliver a presentation to residents.

Neighbourhood Recognition Program (Now Local FireSmart Collective Program)



- A Neighbourhood Recognition Program was launched in 2024 by the Local FireSmart Representative and the Elk Park Community. This program continued in 2025, with Elk Park currently in the process of renewing its recognition status. This program is a strong neighbourhood-level education initiative that enables the FireSmart Coordinator to provide outreach to numerous homeowners, with support from the Neighbourhood Champion.
- In 2026, this program will be rebranded as the Local FireSmart Collective Program.

Development Permit Area (DPA) Review and other FireSmart support

- Provided input into the updated OCP to assist with the development of a robust Wildfire DPA, which, when adopted, will cover the entire Village
- Supported other Radium business areas with FireSmart and Fire Behaviour information.

Home Wildfire Fuel Chipping Day

The annual chipping day was organized and completed on June 18th. It was successful, but it was also decided that it would likely be more effective earlier in the year, when people are doing their spring yard clean-up.

- 19 homes participated in the chipping
- We also utilized this day to chip the debris from one of the Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) treatments
- A total of about 6500 kg of combustible materials were chipped
- This will be offered again in 2026, just after the May long weekend

Grant Management

- The Final report for CBT funding for Sinclair Canyon and the Vacant lot in Elk Park Ranch was completed and approved
- The Year One report for the UBCM- CRI funding was completed and submitted.

Wildfire Risk Reduction

There are numerous completed, ongoing, and proposed WRR treatments within Radium, on Village-owned land, and on Crown land outside the Village. Grants from the CBT and UBCM-CRI programs have funded treatments in the Village.

And in fact, in 2025, the Village completed treatment of all WRR treatment areas identified in the 2024 Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan within its municipal boundaries.

This is a summary of the current and proposed treatments:

- Elk Park Ranch Vacant Lot Treatment – the treatment was initiated and completed this season (2025)
- Sinclair Canyon – this treatment was initiated and completed previously; signage and grant completion were finalized in 2025



- Elk Park Greenbelt – this treatment was initiated and completed in the Fall of 2025. This treatment was identified in our CWRP.
 - Water Treatment Plant – working with MoF for a large-scale treatment, this was identified in our CWRP
 - Old Coach Trailhead area - working with MoF for a treatment, this was identified in our CWRP
 - Base of Redstreak Mountain – Kootenay National Park is completing a treatment in this area. I am working with them and representing Radium's interest.
- Ridge Road (area recently acquired by Radium) – being treated by BCWS crews as they are available commencing Jan/ Feb 2026. Falling and bucking of dead trees, tree limbing and Juniper removal. This is an interim treatment designed to reduce risk and lower fire intensity; more work may be done later.

Seminars, Conferences, Provincial and Regional groups

- Participated in the annual FireSmart BC Wildfire Resiliency Summit
- Participated in the Regional FireSmart Committee
- Participated in the Provincial FireSmart Coordinators group
- Participated in Webinars provided by FireSmart BC and the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction related to FireSmart
- Interacted regularly with FireSmart programs for Invermere and the RDEK Columbia Valley

Challenges

Despite our successes, we faced several challenges. Low community uptake of FireSmart is common across most areas and is not unique to Radium. I will continue engaging with other communities and FireSmart BC to improve our uptake.

- Community uptake
- Seniors program
- Desire to “live in the trees.”

2026 Objectives

- Increase the number of FireSmart Assessments completed by ≥ 10 percent
- Increase the number of homes that complete upgrades recommended in the Assessment and supported by the rebate by ≥ 10 percent
- Offer and implement FireSmart Building assessments for businesses in the downtown core and other areas
- Work on making inroads to areas of the community that haven't participated in the program
- The current UBCM- CRI funding ends in October 2026
 - Complete the final report and claim
- Apply for funding for the next two-year UBCM – CRI funding cycle
- FireSmart application to Radium's buildings and infrastructure to reduce risk and to demonstrate our commitment to the FireSmart Program

Conclusion

Overall, 2025 has been a fruitful year marked by significant achievements in community engagement, infrastructure development, and support programs. As we move into 2026, we aim to build on these successes, address ongoing challenges, and further enhance communities' Wildfire Resilience.

Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and residents who contributed to this year's efforts. Together, we look forward to an even more successful year ahead.