

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

STRUCTURE EVALUATION FORM



Date: _____

Is this assessment being conducted for insurance purposes? Yes No

If yes, check with your insurance company to determine what form is required by them. This evaluation is advisory only. By completing this evaluation, the MT DNRC accepts no liability for any loss, damage, or injury resulting from a wildfire event.

If you are a wildfire and/or forestry professional: Please ensure this evaluation data is entered into Situation Analysisist Montana (SAM) www.samontana.org/, once entered, a risk rating will be identified and you will be able to access various reports. A *homeowner report* is one of the options. This report includes the evaluation results, risk rating, and educational information on why certain factors are important and what can be done. SAM offers the option of printing the report for the homeowner or copying and pasting the Internet address/link into an email to share with the homeowner.

If you are a property owner: You can utilize this form to evaluate your structure, to determine the risk rating you will need to request an evaluation be conducted by a wildfire and/or forestry professional, and to request an assessment visit www.dnrc.mt.gov. To receive educational information on why certain factors are important in this evaluation and what can be done, visit www.dnrc.mt.gov.

Property Owner: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Type of Structure: *Primary Seasonal Outbuilding Care Facility Hotel/Lodge/Camp Public Facility Other*

Number of Occupants: _____ # of Additional Structures & type: _____

Special Needs Resident: Yes No Notes: _____

Responding Fire Department: _____ Phone: _____

Assessor: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Wildfire risk reduction actions are intended to reduce risk, not eliminate the risk of wildfire. It is important to note that wildfire is a natural and inevitable phenomenon in Montana. It is a dynamic event influenced by several factors including weather (winds, temperature, relative humidity), topography (steepness of a slope, the direction that slope faces, and terrain features such as canyons and saddles), and vegetation, also known as fuels (light or heavy loading, height, continuity, and volatility). Human activity, response times, and seasonal trends also play a role. *There will always be some risk of wildfire regardless of actions taken and structural characteristics.*

It is important to take steps to prepare your structure and property for wildfires with the mindset that firefighters will not be on site and the actions you take now will increase your homes chances of survival.

This evaluation is designed to identify vulnerabilities around the structure. In a wildfire situation, structure ignitions can occur in multiple ways, including:

- 1. Firebrands or ember-wash** – This is the most common way that homes ignite during a wildfire. Wildfires may produce high winds that loft burning fuel particles up to a mile ahead of a fire. This often explains how fires grow so quickly. Closer to the fire, small embers swirl around like a blizzard and accumulate in corners and crevices. These may ignite combustible materials such as needles, leaves, wooden decks, siding, or enter through gaps, cracks, or vents in an attic, soffit, or crawlspace to ignite combustible materials within.
- 2. Radiant & convective heat** – When intense enough, heat produced by a fire will ignite the home or preheat siding and other materials which then ignites more readily when in direct contact with flame or embers.
- 3. Direct flame** – Vegetation or fuels near the home ignite, subsequently igniting the home.

ACCESS

Address visible from the road:

- Yes
- No

Adequate turnaround:

- Yes
- No

Locked gate:

- No
- Yes. Fire dept. has access
- Yes. Fire dept. does not have access

Community ingress/egress:

- Two or more roads in/out
- One road in/out

Width of driveway:

- Inaccessible
- 12 feet or less
- 13 feet or more

Bridge or weight limits:

- Yes
- No
- Unknown
- Not Applicable

Length of driveway:

- Inaccessible
- < 50 feet
- 50 - 150 feet
- 150 - 500 feet
- 500 feet or more

STRUCTURE

Slope within 150 feet of structure:

- 0-10%
- 11-25%
- > 26%

Structure setback from the edge of the slope:

- Adequate > 150 feet
- Inadequate < 150 feet

Position of structure on the slope:

- Valley bottom or lower slope
- Mid-slope
- Upper-slope
- Ridge top/chimney

Roof material:

- Metal or tile
- Asphalt/composition shingles
- Other noncombustible material
- Untreated wood shakes

Cleanliness:

- No combustible material
- Scattered combustible material < .5 inch depth
- Clogged gutters and/or combustible material > .5 inch depth

Eaves:

- Boxed-in and/or fire-treated
- Non-boxed and/or not treated
- None

Exterior wall material:

- Noncombustible material or metal siding
- Log or heavy timber
- Smooth wood or vinyl siding
- Wood shake or ember receptive siding

Attached combustibles are:

- Not present or clear of receptive fuel
 - Have receptive fuel adjacent
 - Have receptive fuel below
- *If combustibles/receptive fuels are adjacent and below, select the option that is most vulnerable.*
- *If you are not sure or unable to determine something, leave it blank.*

All structure vents have:

- Noncombustible 1/4-1/8 inch protective screen
- Noncombustible screen > 1/4 inch
- No screens

VEGETATION

0-30 feet

Ember resistant zone within 3 feet of structure:

- Yes
- No

Combustibles 0-30 feet from structure:

- None
- Light
- Moderate
- Heavy

Propane clearance:

- Yes or not present
- No

Tree canopy 0-30 feet from structure:

- None
- Deciduous - good separation
- Deciduous - continuous
- Mixed - good separation
- Mixed - continuous
- Coniferous - good separation
- Coniferous - continuous

Surface fuels 0-30 feet from structure:

- Lawn, mowed or no material
- Tall grass, not mowed or cut
- Brush/light dead wood material
- Heavy down woody material

Ladder fuels 0-30 feet from structure:

- Absent
- Scattered
- Abundant

31-100 feet

Tree canopy 31-100 feet from structure:

- None
- Deciduous - good separation
- Deciduous - continuous
- Mixed - good separation
- Mixed - continuous
- Coniferous - good separation
- Coniferous - continuous

Surface fuels 31-100 feet from structure:

- Lawn, mowed or no material
- Tall grass, not mowed or cut
- Brush/light dead wood material
- Heavy down woody material

Ladder fuels 31--100 feet from structure:

- Absent
- Scattered
- Abundant

Greater than 100 feet

Heavy and/or continuous conifer trees 100-200 feet from structure:

- Yes
- No

SAFETY

Access risk:

- Yes
- No

Overhead power-line risk:

- Yes
- No

Septic tank risk:

- Yes
- No

Poor escape route risk:

- Yes
- No

Propane or gas risk:

- Yes
- No

Animal/pet risk:

- Yes
- No

HazMat risk:

- Yes
- No

On-site water source:

- Pressurized hydrant
- Dry hydrants
- Creek/Lake/Pond
- Accessible swimming pool
- None or not sufficient
- Other

Safety Notes: _____

