

# Summary: Unsightly Premises Fire Smart Standards

The Unsightly Premises portion of the Community Standards Bylaw could see extensive revisions, though it should be noted they are still more relaxed than provincial regulations in an effort to be reasonable with local residents.

## Fire Smart Inspectors

There are a number of suggested revisions regarding how investigations are to be conducted and could incorporate Alberta Fire Smart Standards. These standards are designed to improve fire safety and reduce wildfire and wildfire — urban structure fire incidents.



## Fire Smart Inspections

The Town of High Level could designate members of the High Level Fire Department as Fire Smart Inspectors to conduct investigations, or Fire Smart inspections could be related to unsightly or untidy premise investigations in accordance with the Municipal Government Act.

Fire Smart Inspectors would be given permission to enter a property without a warrant for the purpose of conducting inspections at any time after giving reasonable notice to the home owner. In an emergency, no notice would need to be given.

Inspectors could enter land or structures to carry out inspections, remedy, enforcement, or action; request anything to be produced that could assist them with those actions, and make copies of anything which could assist in those inspection. They could enlist the aid of a Peace Officer to conduct the inspection, and issue a Fire Order to rectify an issue.

## New proposed standards

The proposed changes include some minimum standards for properties, including grass and weeds being a maximum of 15 centimetres tall. Pine needle mulches would be prohibited.

Properties would need to be free of excess amounts of dead leaf piles, dead pine needles, tree bark, twigs or tree trimmings, rotting or dead trees, or chopped trees (except in wood piles, which would need to be kept at least 10 metres from residential dwellings).

Buildings would need to be free from excess accumulates, moss, mold, overhanging trees, blankets, and tarps. On roofs, shingles would need to be replaced when 50 per cent of them had aged to the point they were dried and curled. Gutters would not be permitted to drain near electrical circuits.

Combustible materials would need to be stored in sealed containers a minimum of 10 metres from a home or be disposed of properly unless in accordance with environmental laws. This would not include barbecues or fire pit propane cylinders.

Buildings damaged by fire could be ordered to be demolished in a timely manner.