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For Immediate Release

Free disposal of wood waste from FireSmart activities

Williams Lake, B.C. – Starting June 8, 2018, all Cariboo Regional District refuse sites with wood waste areas will accept wood waste and debris generated from FireSmart activities at no charge. All sizes of tree and brush waste will be accepted for free to help remove barriers for fire fuel reduction efforts.

“We hope eliminating our tipping fees for wood waste will encourage residents to take pro-active wildfire prevention steps on their property,” explains CRD Chair Margo Wagner. “One of the recommendations that came out of our Cariboo Chilcotin Wildfires 2017 report is helping facilitate a culture of preparedness in our communities. The FireSmart program is an important piece in emergency preparedness.”

[FireSmart](#) is a national initiative that outlines simple steps property owners and communities can take to reduce the susceptibility of buildings and property to fire. The program encourages residents to start from their home and work outwards. Changes made to the area closest to homes and homes themselves have the greatest impact on reducing the risk of wildfire damage.

For example:

- Clearing all plants, debris and other vegetation from within 10 metres of a structure.
- Ensuring that there are no trees or other vegetation overhanging your roof.
- Regularly removing debris from your gutters.
- Keeping your lawn mowed. Grasses shorter than 10 centimetres are less likely to burn intensely.

When disposing FireSmart debris at CRD refuse sites with wood waste areas, wood loads must be clean, which means they cannot contain dirt, rocks, metals, plastics or other types of garbage. Fines will apply to contaminated loads. Grass clippings, leaves and tree needles will also be accepted free of charge, but must be separated from the wood waste.

Download the FireSmart Homeowner's Manual at gov.bc.ca/wildfireprevention. Printed FireSmart brochures are available at the CRD offices, CRD fire halls and through the Cariboo Fire Centre office. For other ways to protect your home, you can also visit FireSmartCanada.ca for more resources, including information on how FireSmart principles can protect your community.

For more information on CRD refuse sites, hours and tipping fees, visit cariboord.ca/services/SolidWasteManagement/overview. You can also call the CRD at 250-392-3351 for more information on this new wood waste program.

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