

## KEY ISSUES:

The roof is the most vulnerable component of your home. Sparks and burning embers from a wildfire can travel long distances and quickly ignite flammable roofing material and/or combustible debris on the roof.



### What factors contribute to the vulnerability of your roof?

- Un-rated roofing materials (untreated wood shakes or shingles) create a dangerous combination of combustible material and/or crevices for burning embers to lodge, and provide no protection from wildfire.
- As asphalt-composition shingles age and curl, more openings are exposed and may increase places for embers to accumulate.
- Your roof is a large surface where combustible debris can accumulate. When a wildfire threatens your home, wind-blown embers can land on your roof and ignite this debris, potentially putting your home at risk.

### Consider these guidelines when planning an upgrade to your roof and as part of your ongoing home maintenance:

- Fire-rated roofing materials (ULC/ASTM) provide the best protection from wildfire.
  - > **Class A** fire-rated roofing materials provide a high level of protection.
  - > **Class B** fire-rated roofing materials provide a moderate level of protection.
  - > **Class C** fire-rated roofing materials provide a lower level of protection.
- Replace un-rated or old roofing materials with fire-rated roofing materials that meet or exceed the local authority requirements. Class A roofing material is recommended and includes asphalt-composition shingles, metal, or slate/clay/concrete tile.
- Your area may have a specific minimum fire rating that must be followed for new roofing materials. Avoid wood shakes or shingles.
- Clean leaves, pine needles and other combustible debris from your roof regularly.
- Inspect your roof often and replace or repair any shingles that are curling or in poor condition.
- Roof features, such as skylights and solar panels, could be an entry or accumulation point for wind-blown embers. Keep these features properly maintained and clear of combustible debris.

Refer to the FireSmart Canada Home Development Guide for more information.

[https://firesmartcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FireSmart\\_Canada\\_Home\\_Development\\_Guide.pdf](https://firesmartcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FireSmart_Canada_Home_Development_Guide.pdf)