

**UBC OKANAGAN CAMPUS  
WILDFIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT**

**DECEMBER 18, 2014**

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**UBC OKANAGAN CAMPUS**  
**WILDFIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT**

A wildfire hazard assessment with respect to trees, shrubs and debris surrounding campus buildings was done on December 18, 2014. The assessment was done within three zones which are:

- Zone 1: within 10m from buildings
- Zone 2: 10 to 30m from buildings
- Zone 3: 30+m from buildings

Most of the hazards identified close to buildings are relatively minor and could be corrected with minimum improvement in landscape maintenance practices.

The hazard concerns identified around the buildings are as follows:

**Upper Cascades Residence**

- Zone 1: Okay
- Zone 2: Remove lower tree limbs, remove about 20 smaller poor quality pine trees and remove 23 down trees on south side between residence J, H and Daycare building.
- Zone 3: S side: Remove lower tree branches and remove a few poor quality trees.

**Daycare Building (west side)**

- Zone 1: Remove two small (7 and 10cm) pine trees within 30cm of building, flagged with yellow.
- Zone 2: Remove some lower tree branches and remove a few poor quality smaller pine trees.
- Zone 3: Endowment Land. Remove lower tree branches on some trees, remove about 5 leaning pine trees and remove about 16 down trees.

**Mountain Weather Office**

- Zone 1: NE side: Trim Oregon grape shrubs to keep them away from the building.  
S side: Trim Oregon grape shrubs to keep them away from the building and remove 15 small (up to 3cm) deciduous trees growing next to building.  
E side: Trim junipers close to the building.
- Zone 2: Trim mugo pines on north, east and west sides. Remove leaning mugo pines on north side.

**Cassiar Residence**

- Zone 1: Okay
- Zone 2: N side: Minor pruning of lower pine branches.
- Zone 3: N side: Remove lower branches on some pine trees. Remove 3 or more dead trees and remove some down wood debris (logs ,branches etc.). Not much required up to 150m but more required beyond.

**Valhalla Residence**

- Zone 1: N side: Trim 4 deciduous trees.  
S side: Prune lower branches on 3 pine trees.
- Zone 2: N side: Remove 2 leaning trees, remove one leaning dead tree and remove 2 down trees.  
E side: Prune lower branches on some pines, remove about 12 poor quality trees, remove a few dead trees and remove about 24 down trees.
- Zone 3: N side: Minor lower pine limb removal needed, remove a few leaning trees, remove a few dead trees and remove about 16 down trees.  
E side: Only a small area beyond 30m. Treat the same as Zone 2.

### **Monashee Residence**

- Zone 1: SE side: Trim mugo pines to reduce height, remove a pine tree (30cm) 3.4 m from building, trim heights of 3 deciduous trees, trim heights of cedars around garbage disposal site and possibly remove the pine tree next to the cedars.  
S and NW side: Trim mugo pines to reduce heights.
- Zone 2: SE side: Prune lower branches on some trees, remove about 9 poor quality trees and remove some down tree debris.
- Zone 3: SE side: Prune lower tree branches, remove a few poor quality trees, remove a few dead trees and remove some down tree debris.

### **Similkameen Residence**

- Zone 1: E side: Should remove large pine (36cm) 4m from building near NE corner.  
SW side: Remove 2 pines (7, 17cm) close to building near SW corner. Remove dead pine (21cm) and prune lower branches on pines along the side.  
NW side: Trim lower branches and remove broken branches on one pine (27cm).
- Zone 2: SW side: Trim lower branches on pines.

### **Lower Cascades**

- Zone 1: S side: Trim junipers and some mugo pines that are touching residence A,B,C and D.  
N side: Trim 2 deciduous trees touching residence C and 2 deciduous trees touching residence D. Trim deciduous tree near residence E and a deciduous tree near residence F.
- Zone 2: N side: Prune some lower branches on 6 pine trees north of residence G.

### **Kalamalka Residence**

- Zone 1: NW corner: Trim deciduous tree.

### **Nicola Residence**

- Zone 1: E side: Some deciduous trees will require trimming in a few years.
- Zone 2: N side: Remove one small (7cm) dead Douglas-fir tree near north edge of parking lot.

### **Purcell Residence**

- Zone 1: Okay.
- Zone 2: E side: Prune lower branches on some pine trees and remove about 7 down tree debris.
- Zone 3: E side: Prune lower branches on some pine trees, remove about 12 bent over trees and remove considerable down trees.

### **University Centre**

- Zone 1: N and S sides: Trim junipers that are touching the building and getting too tall.  
All sides: Tall grasses planted around the building should be trimmed down in the fall to mitigate the dry grass fire hazard.

### **Trailer East of Parking Lot F**

- Zone 1: E and N side: Prune lower branches on some trees and remove a few poor quality trees.
- Zone 2: E and N side: Prune lower branches on some trees, remove 2 dead standing trees and remove 2 down trees. (Area is west of Geoexchange building).

### **Geoexchange Building (South side)**

Zone 1: Okay

Zone 2: S side: Prune lower pine branches and some lower Douglas-fir branches, remove about 5 poor quality pine trees, remove 3 dead trees and remove some minor down tree debris.

Zone 3: S side: Prune lower pine branches and lower branches on Douglas-fir trees and remove some small amount of down wood (Only a small area beyond 30m from building).

### **Fipke Centre**

Zone 1: NW side: Trim trees and shrubs that are touching the building and trim cedars to reduce height and remove dead foliage in the cedars

### **Science Building**

Okay. No concerns

### **Arts and Sciences Centre**

Zone 1: NW side: Trim shrubs to keep them from touching the building.

### **Arts Building**

Zone 1: W side: Trim large deciduous tree that is touching the building, trim and reduce height of the tree adjacent the yard light post and trim oregon grape shrubs to keep them away from the building and keep height down.

S side: Trim Oregon grape shrubs to keep them away from the building and reduce height.

### **Creative and Critical Studies**

Zone 1: E and W sides: Trim shrubs to keep them away from the building.

### **Reichwald Health Sciences Centre**

Zone 1: Okay

Zone 2: Okay

Zone 3: S side: Prune lower pine branches and remove down tree debris.

### **Gymnasium**

Zone 1: Okay.

Zone 2: N and E sides: Prune lower branches on spruce trees.

S side: Prune lower pine tree branches and remove dead standing and down trees.

Zone 3: NW side: Remove one dead pine tree located NW of NW corner.

S side: Prune lower pine tree branches, remove some poor quality trees and remove some down tree debris.

### **Central Heating Plant**

Zone 1: W and S sides: Trim shrubs, cedars and trees to keep them away from the building and prune lower branches on conifer trees.

### **Campus Admin Building**

Zone 1: SW side: Trim a large deciduous tree to keep away from the building.

Zone 2: S side: Remove two pine trees (16 and 17cm). One is bent over the paved trail and one is intertwined with another pine tree. The trees are flagged with yellow tape.

W side: Could trim lower branches on two spruce trees on the lawn area.

### **Library**

Zone 1: S side: Trim shrubs to keep them away from the building.

### **Engineering Building**

Zone 1: E side: Trim down and remove planted tall grasses adjacent the building to eliminate the dry grass fire hazard.

Zone 2: E side: Prune lower branches on some trees and remove some bent over trees.

Zone 3: E side: Remove two dead pine trees (22 and 30cm) located at north end of the pond.

### **University House**

Zone 1: N side: Prune lower branches on Douglas-fir tree.

W side: Prune some branches on deciduous trees and remove some wood debris.

S side: Prune some bent over limbs on small deciduous trees.

E side: Prune lower branches on deciduous.

Zone 2: N side: Prune broken branches on deciduous trees and remove branch debris on the ground on north edge of parking lot.

W side: Prune lower branches on some deciduous trees and on a few pines.

S side: Prune lower branches on some pines and remove some trees in a group of young pines to thin them out.

E side: Prune a thicket including removal of bent over branches.

Zone 3: W side: Prune lower branches on some pines and remove some down wood debris.

S side: Prune lower branches on some pines.

### **SUMMARY**

The majority of the concerns identified in this assessment are relatively minor. The fire risk in Zone 1, which is predominately landscape plantings around campus buildings, is quite low. *The fact that the buildings are mainly brick on the outside reduces the risk as well. Many of the concerns are shrubs and trees touching the buildings and is often the result of the plantings being too close to the buildings.* Trimming of the shrubs and trees is needed to keep them away from the buildings and to keep the heights down.

There are no major concerns in Zones 2 or 3 as well. *There is some minimal pruning of the lower branches up to 2.5m on pines and on a few Douglas-fir trees but the majority of the pines have self pruned the lower branches and now have the tree trunks free of branches well above the 2.5m level.* Additionally, there is a need to remove some dead trees, remove poor quality trees, thin out some trees and remove tree debris from the ground. The most concern is around the Daycare, Valhalla Residence and Monashee Residence.



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