
FIRESMART DEVELOPMENT

SILVIO ADAMO - DIRECTOR, PROTECTIVE SERVICES / FIRE CHIEF

TOWN OF BANFF



OVERVIEW OF WUI PROGRAM

- Established in 2003 with overall Wildfire Protection Plan
- First Tactical Response Plan (2005)
- Amended land use bylaw design guidelines (2006)
- Structural Protection Trailer built in 2007 with 300 sprinklers and associated equipment
- 2005-2007 Urban Forest Fuel Modification work 52 Hectares (250K municipal funding)

OVERVIEW OF WUI PROGRAM

- 2010 - 40 hectares of maintenance and 2 hectares of new fuel modification (86K FRIAA and Federal grant)
- 2015 Type 1 engine to pull SPU (retired 1992 pump truck)
- Mutual Aid Agreement with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (2015)
- 2nd edition of Tactical Response Plan (2016)
- Wildfire Preparedness Guide (2016)
- 2016 to 2018 Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta grants for fuel modification and public education (352K)

OVERVIEW OF WUI PROGRAM

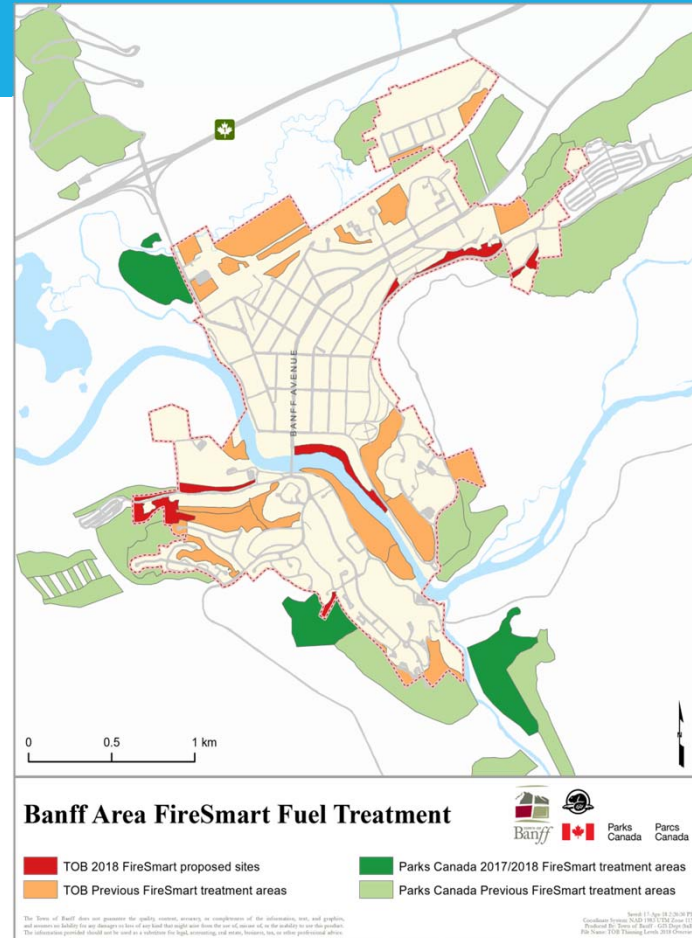
- Six Type 5 slip on tank units(2017)
- Combustible roof replacement incentive (2017)
- FireSmart Canada Community Protection Achievement Award (2017)
- Fire Smart Forum public open house event (2018)
- Conifer Tree replacement incentive (2018)
- FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program (six neighbourhoods totalling 218 dwellings recognized by end of 2018)

OVERVIEW OF WUI PROGRAM

- FireSmart Evaluator - home assessment program and tool lending cache (283 homes assessments completed to date)
- 2018 and beyond, focus on maintaining existing programs with enhanced public engagement and education
- Annual training and tabletop with Parks Canada Fire and Vegetation group and other key agencies and stakeholders
- All Fire Department members trained in Wildland Urban Interface fire (S115 & S215)
- FireSmart Banff - Public Education Website

www.banff.ca/firesmart

FUEL TREATMENT MAP





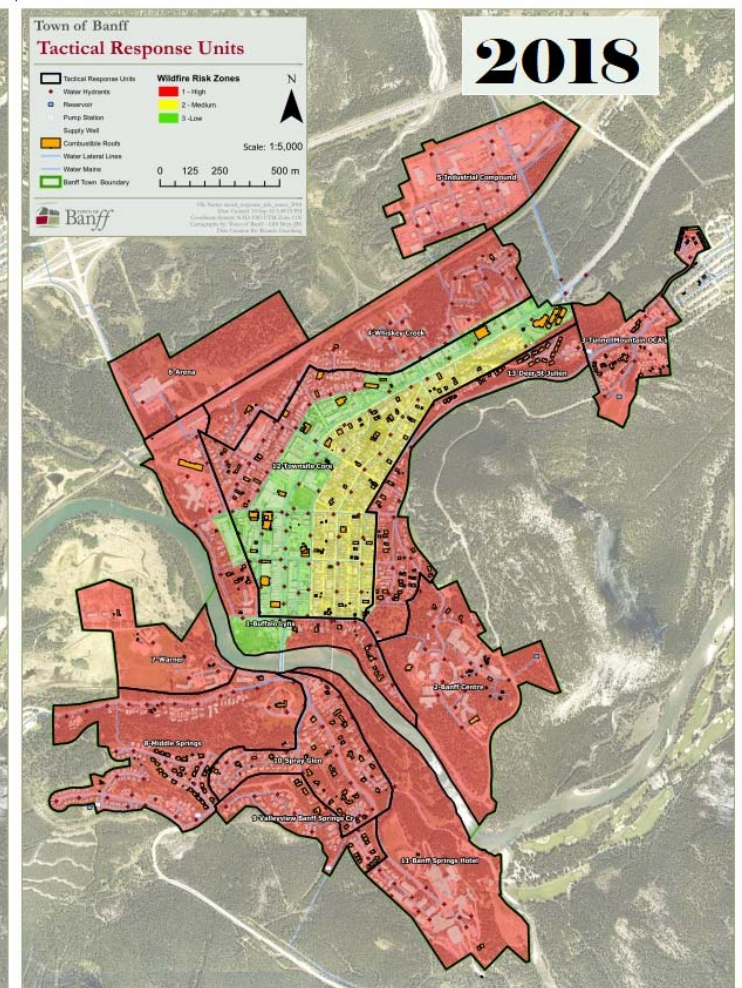
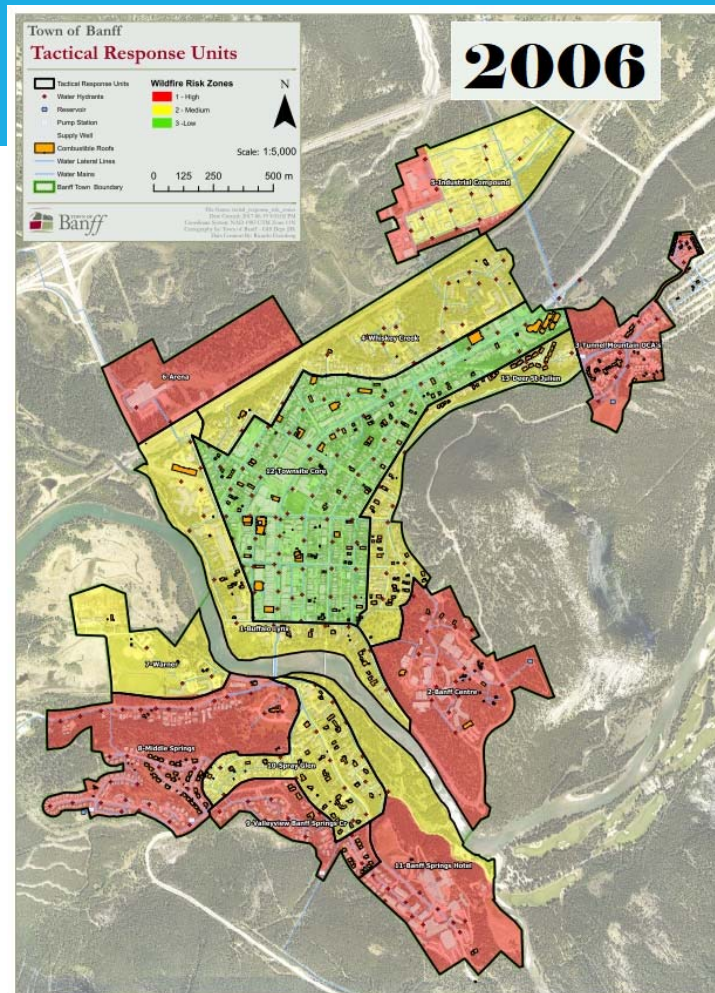
DEVELOPMENT TOPICS

- Land Use Bylaw Design Guidelines
 - Wildfire Risk Zones
 - Structure and Landscape requirements
- Combustible Roof Replacement Incentive
- Conifer Tree Replacement Incentive
- Strategic Priority and Future Regulatory Considerations

LAND USE BYLAW DESIGN GUIDELINES

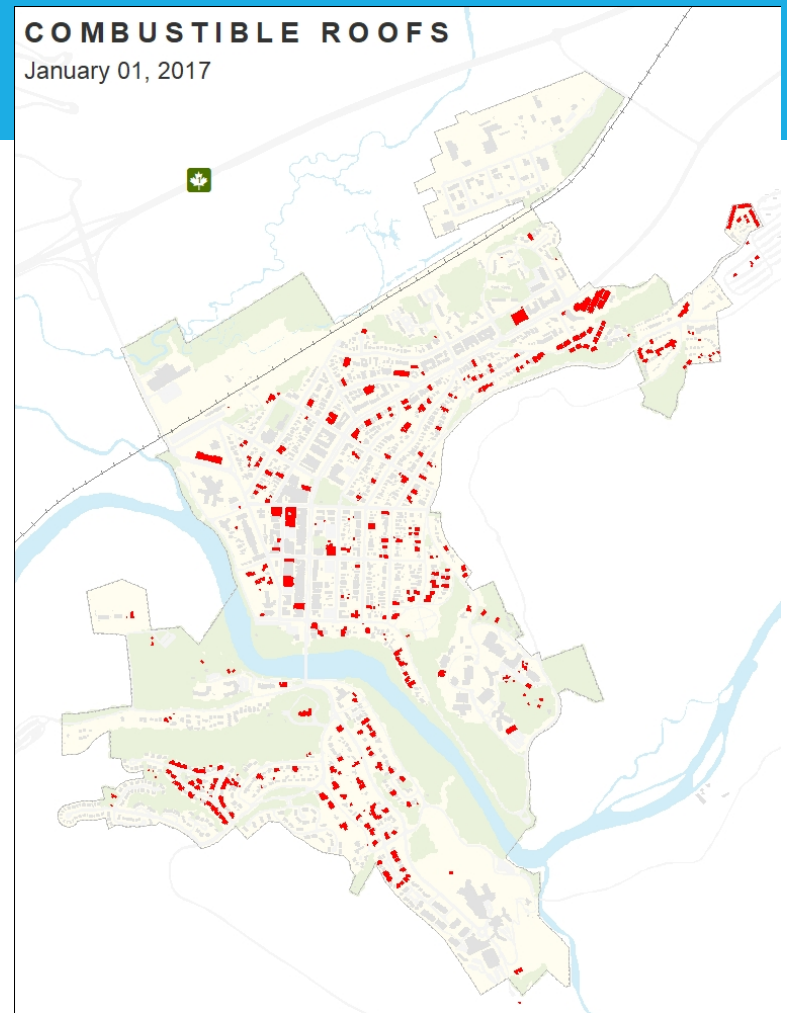
- Wildfire Risk Zone Mapping established in 2006 identifying High, Moderate and Low risk zones in the community based on potential fire behaviour, ember loading and potential flame impingement.
- Structural and landscape requirements established for each zone for new development and redevelopment projects.
- Approved tree and plant species appendices created identifying flammability ratings.
- Land Use Bylaw Design Guidelines currently being amended to incorporate more FireSmart principles.
- www.banff.ca/index.aspx?NID=747

WILDFIRE RISK ZONES



COMBUSTIBLE ROOF REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE

- In 2016 there were 255 untreated wood shake roofs mapped within High and Moderate wildfire risks zones in the Town of Banff



COMBUSTIBLE ROOF REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE

How could we create incentives for homeowners to replace their unrated fire ember “catchers mitt” roofs with a fire rated roof material?

- Over the past several years, Town Council had funded a number of environmental incentives to encourage homeowner to “do the right thing” projects. (low flush toilets, solar power, etc.)
- Fort McMurray and Alan Westhaver’s Catastrophic Loss Institute report.

COMBUSTIBLE ROOF REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE

- During the 2017 budgeting process, a request for decision was brought to Council to provide financial incentive for all 255 homeowners with unrated wood shake roofs within High and Moderate risk zones to upgrade their roofs to a ULC class B rated roof system.
- Council subsequently approved a \$900 per home incentive committing \$229,500 over 10 years.
- An application and tracking process was put in place and is being managed by the Protective Services Administrative Assistant with support from the town's Finance Department.
- See: Combustible Roof Replacement Incentive at www.banff.ca/fire

COMBUSTIBLE ROOF REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE

How are we going to communicate and inform homeowners?

Was the incentive going to be effective?

- We used our town webpage, newspaper articles, created door hangers that were distributed by fire department members to all eligible homeowners.
- By the end of the first year, annual funding of \$29,500 was paid out with 4 on a waitlist for the following year funding allocation.

COMBUSTIBLE ROOF REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE

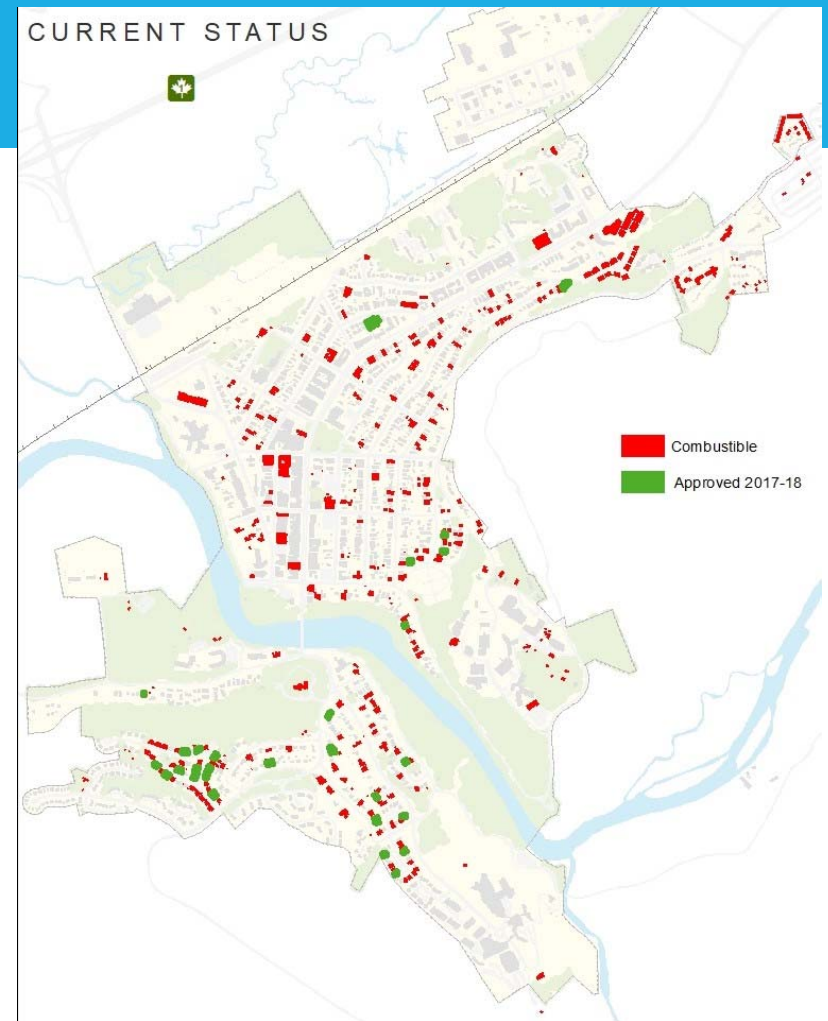
How can we make it better?

- Riding the coattails of the first years success, another request for decision was brought to Council to capture the remaining 72 untreated wood shake roofs in the Low Hazard risk zone of the town.
- Subsequently, in the 2018 budget process, council approved an additional \$64,800 to eliminate all unrated wood shake roofs in the community.

COMBUSTIBLE ROOF REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE

Mapping our progress and identifying target areas

- To date, 35 combustible roofs have been replaced with 39 pending.





CONIFER TREE REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE

Living in a community within Canada's first National Park and Unesco World Heritage Site comes with expectations and challenges.

- How do we move towards being a FireSmart Community while keeping the aesthetic expectations of our 4+ million annual visitors and municipal urban forest vision?
- Land use bylaw design guidelines requirement for tree removal and replacement
- Homeowners emotional and practical attachments to conifer trees



CONIFER TREE REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE

Removing and replacing trees can be costly and may deter homeowners from “doing the right thing”. So...

back to Council we go with another plan and funding requests.

- May 2018 council approved the program with initial funding of \$30,000

CONIFER TREE REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE

How it works:

- Modified tree cutting application to include a check box for FireSmart
 - www.banff.ca/documentcenter/view/452
- A trained FireSmart home evaluator from the fire department conducts a complete home and property assessment, provides recommendations and if the conifer tree is within 10 meters of a structure, approves the cutting permit.



CONIFER TREE REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE

- A list of properties and number of trees are compiled and prior to spring planting season, a Town of Banff Municipal Parks supervisor visits each site and determines what species of deciduous tree is best for the property
- The homeowner is required to prepare the planting site with instructions the town provides
- Trees are delivered to each property by the town leaving the homeowner with care and maintenance instructions



STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND FUTURE REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

- Recent strategic planning session with Council
 - Vision and Mission
- Community Standards Bylaw amendments addressing retroactive requirements

VISION & MISSION

TOWN OF BANFF WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE FIRE

Vision: We are National leaders in Wildland Urban Interface Fire.

❖ Our Mission: Within our unique mountain environment, we protect life, critical infrastructure, the environment and economy of the Town of Banff from Wildland Urban Interface Fire.

Our goals:

- ❖ To have Canada's most engaged and informed residents in Wildfire Preparedness.
- ❖ To apply FireSmart principles to all ToB structures and landscape.
- ❖ To provide innovative incentives for residents to adopt FireSmart principles.

FIRESMART DEVELOPMENT

QUESTIONS ?

Silvio Adamo – Director, Protective Services / Fire Chief

Town of Banff

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