Community awareness:

How is the awareness of government about forest fires in British Columbia.

What are the general practices?

If anyone is affected by forest fire, how can they immediately reach out to some authority

1. Financial Budget: The B.C. government has allocated $136 million for direct fire costs in Budget 2021 for the 2021-22 wildfire season – the same as last year’s firefighting budget, but $73 million more than was allocated in Budget 2018.
2. Projects: The B.C. government strongly supports the efforts of local governments and First Nations to reduce wildfire risks in and around their communities by completing fuel management projects, developing Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans and implementing FireSmart principles. This work is particularly important in the wildland-urban interface, where

urban development borders on grasslands and forested areas.

* **Community Resiliency Investment program:**

This program provides financial support, especially through FireSmart Community Funding, enabling local governments and First Nations to manage fire risks, create wildfire resiliency plans, and implement FireSmart principles.

* **Crews and equipment:**

More than 1,700 BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) firefighters and support staff are in place for the 2021 fire season.

* **FireSmart program:**

A widely recognized fire-prevention standard, FireSmart involves education, vegetation management, community planning, and emergency preparedness. This approach educates individuals and communities to manage wildfire risks around properties.

If you are concerned about your neighbourhood’s fire risk, ask local authorities, the planning department, or fire department how they are integrating FireSmart principles into their plans. You can also reach out to your Local FireSmart Representative to assess your home and enroll your neighbourhood in the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP).

In the event of a fire, make sure to call your local fire department immediately (911) and notify the BC Wildfire Service by dialling 1 800 663 5555 (or \*5555 from a cell phone).

1. With land manager: The BC Wildfire Service works closely with land managers to undertake a variety of fuel management activities (such as removing accumulations of wood debris and other flammable vegetation), including the use of prescribed fire to reduce wildfire risks.
2. Partnerships with First Nations: The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) collaborates with Indigenous communities, ensuring they have resources and training to participate in firefighting and manage fire risks.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/wildfire-prevention-is-everyones-responsibility>

<https://firesmartbc.ca/all-it-takes-is-a-spark/#:~:text=In%20the%20event%20of%20a,5555%20from%20a%20cell%20phone>).