



# The FireSmartest House: A Home and Property Assessment Game

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## Materials

### 15 laminated pictures of home properties, question sheet

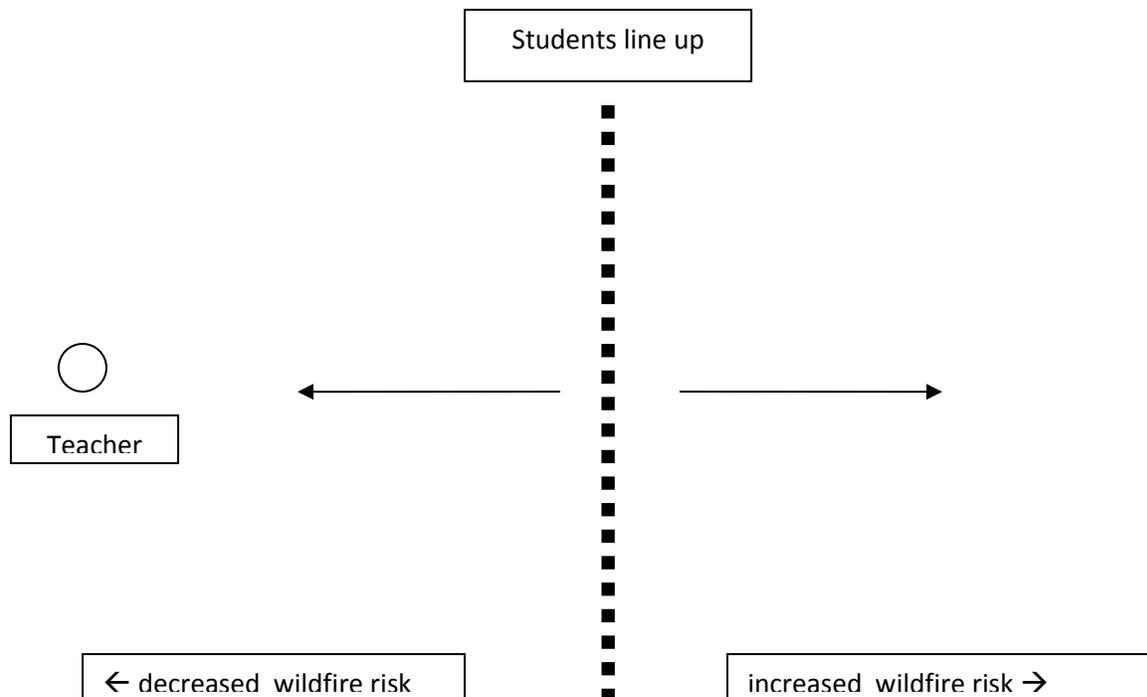
(Note: laminated pictures can be colour coded to provide the teacher with a quick visual reference of the fire risk of the various properties during the game and where the students should be in the activity)

## Purpose

This activity is aimed at reinforcing basic FireSmart actions related to home and property management through student completing a Home and Property FireSmart Assessment in a fun and interactive manner.

## Introduction

The FireSmart Assessment Game reinforces how FireSmart actions can lessen the threat of wildfire to your home. The teacher, who represents the threat of wildfire, is standing at the edge of an open area. All students in the class need to pair up and select a property image from the teacher. They are now the owners of that property. The paired students form a line facing the teacher approx 15 meters away (see diagram). The teacher will ask FireSmart questions to the property owners. These questions are related to a FireSmart Assessment of the each of the properties. As the property owners, students will be stepping towards the teacher if their risk of wildfire decreases, and they will be stepping away from the teacher if their risk of wildfire increases based on the FireSmart characteristics of their property.





For example: If your fire wood is stacked next to your house - take 2 steps backwards. Students will look at their property picture and decide if they need to step backward or not. Firewood placed next to the home increases the chance of a wildfire threatening the home therefore they will move further from the safety of the teacher.

Possible Questions:

All Houses have these features - If you answer the questions yes then follow the step instructions

1. Is your house made of wood (brown)? Take 2 steps back
2. Is your house made of vinyl (blue)? Take 3 steps back
3. Is your house made of stucco/metal (white, orange)? Take 2 steps forward
4. Is your roof made of wood (brown)? Take 2 steps back
5. Is your roof made of metal or clay (blue/red)? Take 2 steps forward
6. Are your eavestrough clean (magnifying glass = no, no magnifying glass = yes)? Yes, Take 2 steps forward, No take 2 steps back
7. Is your grass cut? If you have a mower take 3 steps forward, if not take 3 steps back
8. Is there a hose or pump on the property? If yes take 3 steps forward, if no take 3 steps back
9. Are there trees growing under your wires? If yes 3 steps back, If no 3 steps forward
10. Are there trees close to the firepit? If yes, 3 steps back, No 3 steps forward
11. Are there trees close to your burn barrel? If yes, 3 steps back, No 3 steps forward
12. Are there leaves under your deck? Take 2 steps back
13. Is your deck closed in? Take 2 steps forward
14. Is your wood pile at least 10 m from the house? Yes, take 3 steps forward, No 3 steps back
15. Is your propane tank at least 10 m away from the house? Yes, 3 steps forward, No 3 steps back

Those furthest back have the least FireSmart homes, those closest have the most FireSmart homes.

## Conclusion

FireSmart actions cannot stop wildfire but if we clean up the areas around our homes and choose less combustible building materials we can make it harder for a wildfire to start.