
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
Jun 18, 2020

Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
BC Wildfire Service

Coastal Fire Centre to rescind open burning prohibitions

PARKSVILLE – Effective at noon, Friday, June 19, 2020, all open fires will again be permitted throughout the Coastal Fire Centre’s jurisdiction. This rescind is the result of recent rainfall that has reduced the wildfire risk in the region.

The public is asked to undertake open burning responsibly, and to follow guidance to ensure their burning is conducted in a safe manner. While the BC Wildfire Service has developed protocols for staff to safely respond to wildfires and reduce the risk from COVID-19, we ask for the public’s assistance to reduce the likelihood of a forest fire.

This rescind means that campfires, Category 2 and 3 open fires and Resource Management Burning are permitted everywhere in the Coastal Fire Centre’s jurisdictional area. Local governments may still have their own burning restrictions in place, and people intending to light a fire should always check with local authorities before lighting any fire of any size.

The following fire-related activities are now allowed:

- the use of burning barrels and burning cages.
- the use of air curtain burners.
- the use of binary exploding targets.
- the use of sky lanterns.
- the use of fireworks, including firecrackers.

Anyone lighting a Category 3 open fire must first obtain a burn registration number by calling 1 888 797-1717. A Category 3 open fire is a fire that burns material more than two metres high or three metres wide, stubble or grass of more than 2,000 square metres, or more than two piles of any size. A poster explaining the different categories of open burning is available online: <http://ow.ly/zny309kJv5>

Anyone who lights a fire must comply with B.C.’s air quality control legislation. The BC Wildfire Service urges people to take the following precautions with any permitted outdoor burning:

- Ensure that enough people, water and tools are on hand to control the fire and stop it from escaping.
- Do not burn in windy conditions. The weather can change quickly, and the wind may carry embers to other combustible material and start new fires.
- Create a fireguard around the planned fire site by clearing away twigs, grass, leaves and other combustible material.
- Never leave a fire unattended.

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- Make sure that the fire is fully extinguished, and the ashes are cold to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time.

The Coastal Fire Centre covers all of the area west of the height of land on the Coast Mountain Range from the U.S. – Canada border at Manning Park, including Tweedsmuir South Provincial Park in the north, the Sunshine Coast, the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and Haida Gwaii.

To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 tollfree or *5555 on a cellphone.

Contact:

Dorthe Jakobsen
Fire Information Officer
Coastal Fire Centre
250 951-4209

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