
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2018FLNR0278-001793
Sept. 17, 2018

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

Open burning prohibitions lifted for the Coastal Fire Centre

PARKSVILLE – Effective at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018, all open burning will once again be allowed throughout the Coastal Fire Centre’s jurisdiction.

This is due to recent rainfall and cooler temperatures, which have reduced wildfire risks in the region.

All open fires will be permitted, along with the use of tiki torches, burn barrels, fireworks, sky lanterns and binary exploding targets. People undertaking any open burning should use caution and be aware of local conditions that might impact their ability to burn safely and control their open fires.

Local governments may still have their own burning restrictions in place, so people should always check with local authorities before lighting any fire of any size.

Anyone lighting a larger Category 3 fire must first obtain a burn registration number by calling 1 888 797-1717. A Category 3 fire is a fire that burns material more than two metres high or three metres wide, or stubble or grass over more than 2,000 square metres, or more than two piles of any size. A poster explaining the different categories of open fires is available online: <http://ow.ly/jdO5301kS32>

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

- Ensure that enough people, water and tools are on hand to control the fire and stop it escaping.
- Do not burn in windy conditions. The weather can change quickly and wind may carry embers to other combustible material and start new fires.
- Create a fire guard around the planned fire site by clearing away twigs, grass, leaves and other combustible material right down to the soil.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Make sure that your fire is fully extinguished and the ashes are cold to the touch before you leave 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 toll-free or *5555 on a cellphone. For up-to-date information on current wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, call 1 888 3-FOREST or visit:

www.bcwildfire.ca

You can also follow the latest wildfire news:

- On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo>
- On Facebook: <http://facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo>

Contact:

Donna MacPherson or Natasha Broznitsky
Fire Information Officers
BC Wildfire Service
Coastal Fire Centre
250 951-4209

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect