



TSG - Open Burning Checklist

Category 2, Category 3 and Resource Management Open Fires
Pre-Ignition Checklist

Timber Sale License or Project Number/Description:	
Project Geographic Location:	
Latitude (UTM):	Longitude (UTM):
Completed by:	Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Company Name:	
<input type="checkbox"/> BCTS Staff	

If not BCTS Staff, Contact Phone Number(s):			
Name:	Cell:	Office:	Other:
Name:	Cell:	Office:	Other:
Category 3 and Resource Management Open Fires must be registered. BCWS Burn Registration line 1-888-797-1717			
<input type="checkbox"/> Burn Registration Number:			
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
Planned Start Date:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pile Burning		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast Burning		

EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

All worksites must have appropriate emergency preparedness equipment and planning.
See the [Environmental Emergency Response Plan](#) for responsibilities.
An **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)** must be in place prior to starting work.

ALL forest fires must be reported immediately to:
1-800-663-5555, or *5555 on the Cantel or Telus cellular networks, or to a regional manager, district manager, designated forest official, or peace officer.
The BCTS contact must also be notified as soon as possible.

This checklist is intended for information purposes only. It is not legal advice. For legal reference, please visit the Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation online at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/governance/legislation-regulations>

The Wildfire Act puts the onus on you to use fire safely. This requires you to determine if you can burn safely before lighting a fire and take reasonable precautions to ensure the fire is contained. Contravention of the Wildfire Act is an offence. A person who contravenes the Wildfire Act may be liable for an administrative penalty, a fine upon conviction, and/or fire fighting and rehabilitation costs as specified in the Wildfire Act. Your security deposit may also be realized for non-compliance with the Wildfire Act and Regulation. You must completely extinguish the fire(s) before leaving the area.

Definitions from Wildfire Regulation (2020) Section 1 Definitions

"category 2 open fire" means an open fire, other than a campfire, that

- burns material in one pile not exceeding 2 m in height and 3 m in width,
- burns material concurrently in 2 piles each not exceeding 2 m in height and 3 m in width, or
- burns stubble or grass over an area that does not exceed 0.2 ha;

"category 3 open fire" means an open fire that burns

- material concurrently in 3 or more piles each not exceeding 2 m in height and 3 m in width,
- material in one or more piles each exceeding 2 m in height or 3 m in width,
- one or more windrows, or
- stubble or grass over an area exceeding 0.2 ha;

"resource management open fire" means an open fire that

- burns unpiled slash over an area of any size, or
- is not a campfire or a category 2 or 3 open fire and is lit, fuelled or used for silviculture treatment, forest health management, wildlife habitat enhancement, fire hazard abatement, ecological restoration or range improvement;

Anyone who lights, fuels or makes use of a Category 3 open fire must comply with the Environmental Management Act and the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (2019) <http://www.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-pollution/smoke-burning/regulations/openburningregulation>

For information on campfire, open fire and travel bans or restrictions, Call Wildfire Information: 1-888-336-7378 (3FOREST) or visit <http://www.bcwildfire.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>


How to find Venting Index Information:


- BC Environment Venting Index: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting/venting.html>
- Provincial Venting Index Hotline: 1-888-281-2992

Smoke Sensitivity Zone Maps: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-pollution/smoke-burning/regulations/openburningregulation/smoke-sensitivity-zone-maps>

SMOKE SENSITIVITY ZONE:

(Check One) HIGH MEDIUM LOW

Element	Response	Comments
 PLANNING		
1. Has a waste survey been completed and placed on file?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
2. Has piling been completed so that burning can be completed safely and effectively without damage to the environment? If No, prescribe piling re-work.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
3. Is a site map available for workers on-site, as well as for arriving responders in the event of an escape, identifying water sources, access/egress, helispots, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
4. Adhering to fire bans and restrictions for the area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
5. Have all the necessary precautions to ensure the fire is contained in the burn area been taken?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
6. Ventilation Index or Custom Venting Forecast indicates favorable burning conditions for Smoke Sensitivity Zone? Record venting Index for day of ignition and following day.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
7. Any Air Quality Burning Bans? (check with Ministry of Environment)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
8. Burning to be completed within Start/End time requirements for Smoke Sensitivity Zone?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
9. Vegetative Debris "Seasoned" (High Smoke Sensitivity Zone only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
10. Watchperson and Patrol plan in place for during and after operations to ensure no hangover-relights? Provide name(s) of watchperson, patrol schedule, and detail method used to ensure fires are extinguished i.e., applying water, turning, cold trailing. Ensure system in place to record monitoring activities and observations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
11. Legal obligations under the Wildfire Act and Regulation, as well as other applicable legislation and regulations, reviewed and understood?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
12. Fuel break has been established or identified? Record details on change in fuel composition, fuel type, or mineral guard. Describe how this will be maintained during burning.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
13. If burning anything other than clean woody debris, has a permit or approval from Ministry of Environment been obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
14. If burning near the public interface, have local officials/stakeholders been notified (i.e., fire department, public, 911 dispatch)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
15. General or Reduced Setbacks for burns adjacent to infrastructure or public interface followed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
16. Have you checked with the local Fire Department and Municipality for local Bylaws that pertain to open fires?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
17. Burn Registration Number obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
18. Approved Burn Plan? (required for Resource Management Open Fires or if required by local Fire Management Official)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
 WEATHER		
19. Consider the risks in the timing of season. Temperature changes can cause conditions to dry up very quickly in the late spring.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
20. Check forecast wind conditions. If the wind is strong enough to carry sparks to other combustible material, do not burn.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
21. Weather station location adequately represents the worksite?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

Element	Response	Comments
22. Is the area covered in snow? If snow not present, record FFMC, DMC, DC. If greater than 75, 6, or 15 respectively there is a risk of fire spreading and escaping.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
23. Check the detailed weather information, including Fire Danger Class, Temperature, Relative Humidity, Precipitation and Wind Speed for work site.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
24. Ensure that a system is in place for site crew and supervisor to keep notified of current and expected weather forecasts. (Keep records)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
25. Consider site conditions that could lead to potentially dangerous fire behaviour or increase probability of spot potential or escape, including slope, aspect, topography, fuels, access and egress.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
26. Are Best Management Practices being incorporated and used for open burning? (Cured fuels, ignition timing, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
 SAFETY & FIRE PREPAREDNESS		
27. Have all staff on-site received, at minimum, certified S100 Fire Suppression training?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
28. Have all staff on-site been trained on a suppression or response plan in the event of an escape?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
29. Fires need to be reported as soon as it leaves the intended burn. Has a Communication plan been established for reporting escaped fire or other emergency situations?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
30. List of resources available for fire suppression on-site, including personnel and equipment? Record location and capacity of fire suppression system.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
31. Is adequate suppression equipment on-site? Consideration given to number of piles lit and number of workers on site.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
32. Has an equipment cache location been established, and the location communicated to all workers on-site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
33. Have sources of water for fire suppression been identified. If none available, develop a contingency plan.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
34. Ensure key contact information for reporting emergencies is included in the ERP.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Additional Comments:		

Qualified Registered Professional	
Name	Date
Signature	