

Important Contacts



Report Wildfires:

1 800 663-5555
or *5555 from a cellphone

Fire Information by Phone

For recorded information on campfires, open fire prohibitions and travel restrictions, call toll-free:
1 888 3FOREST (1 888 336-7378)

Fire Information Online



www.BCWildfire.ca



www.facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo



www.twitter.com/bcgovfireinfo

Visit the BC Wildfire Service website for information about:

- campfire bans or open fire prohibitions
- area restrictions
- maps showing fire danger ratings, temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, and wind speed



RESPECT THE USE OF FIRE

CAMPFIRES



A Guide to the Use of Campfires and Outdoor Stoves



Stoves and Portable Campfires

An **outdoor stove** is “any device that burns fuel for cooking”. The only outdoor stoves that may be used during a campfire prohibition are those that use liquid fuel, gaseous fuel or briquettes, and are CSA-approved or ULC-approved.

Using stoves that burn wood is prohibited when a campfire prohibition is in effect, unless the stove is incorporated in a building and vented through a flue.

A **portable campfire apparatus** is a free-standing fireplace that burns liquid fuel or gaseous fuel and is designed to provide ambiance and heat. The flame is usually open to the elements but may have a grate on the top to assist with cooking food.

During campfire prohibitions, only a CSA-approved or ULC-approved portable campfire apparatus may be used and the flame length must not exceed 15 centimetres.

When conditions warrant, the use of a portable campfire apparatus or outdoor stove may be further restricted or prohibited.

When using any device, you are required to:

- Operate the apparatus as specified by the manufacturer;
- Take reasonable precautions to ensure the fire is contained;
- Take immediate action to carry out fire control and report the fire if it does escape;
- Turn the unit off when you are not present.

If a device is placed on the ground, you must:

- Place the unit on mineral soil, gravel, sand or a non-combustible surface;
- Maintain an adequate fuel break around the device that is free of flammable materials.

Campfires

A **campfire** is an open fire that burns piled material no larger than 0.5 metres high and 0.5 metres wide.

A person may light or make use of a campfire when:

- There is no campfire prohibition in place;
- Doing so is and will continue to be safe;
- Reasonable precautions are taken to ensure the fire is contained;
- The person is equipped with a hand tool (such as a shovel) or at least eight litres of water, and stays at the fire to prevent its escape;
- The person maintains a fuel break (sometimes called a fire break) around the campfire. This typically means clearing away flammable materials (e.g. twigs, leaves, pine needles, other wood debris) right down to the mineral soil to reduce the likelihood of the fire spreading;
- The person carries out fire control and reports the fire to 1 800 663-5555 if it spreads beyond the burn area; and
- The person ensures that the fire is fully extinguished and the ashes are cold to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time.



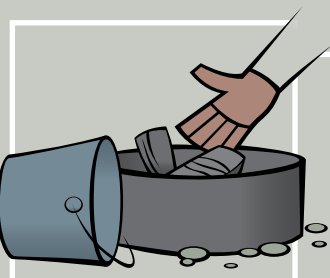
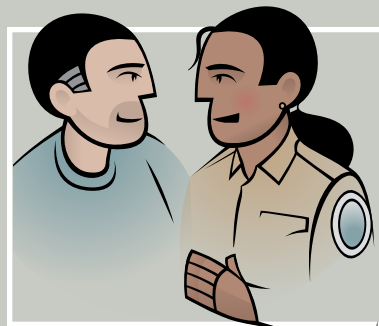
Build a Better Campfire



The careless use of campfires can cause wildfires that may threaten people, communities and wildlife, and destroy timber and other forest resources.

Steps to a better campfire

- Check with authorities to find out if there are any restrictions on the use of campfires.
- Consider the wind conditions. If the wind is strong enough to carry sparks to combustible material, don't light a campfire.
- You must have a fuel break around your campfire. This area must be cleared of debris and anything combustible, and it needs to be wide enough to stop the fire spreading. A rock ring around the fire can also help prevent its spread.
- Keep the fire a reasonable distance away from flammable materials, including all trees and wooden structures.
- Keep your fire small. (The best cooking fire is one that is small and hot.)
- Keep a shovel or at least eight litres of water nearby in case the fire escapes and to fully extinguish the campfire when you've finished using it.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Extinguish your fire by stirring water into the embers until the ashes are cold to the touch. Remember that hot coals can reignite the fire.



About the Wildfire Act

The *Wildfire Act* specifies your legal obligations when using fire for campfires, backyard burning, industrial/agricultural burning and resource management purposes. It is the responsibility of the people using the fire to ensure that their activities do not cause wildfires.

A 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 firefighting, damage and rehabilitation costs as specified in the *Wildfire Act*.

Where the Wildfire Act applies

The *Wildfire Act* applies on both public (Crown) land and private land throughout B.C.

Always check with your local government or fire department to see if there are any local bylaws or fire use restrictions in effect before lighting any fire. If there are local bylaws or restrictions in place, those agencies can provide further information.



Still not sure?

If you need additional information, contact the BC Wildfire Service fire centre office nearest you:

Coastal Fire Centre

(Parksville) 250 951-4222

Kamloops Fire Centre

(Kamloops) 250 554-5500

Southeast Fire Centre

(Castlegar) 250 365-4040

Cariboo Fire Centre

(Williams Lake) 250 989-2600

Prince George Fire Centre

(Prince George) 250 561-4628

Northwest Fire Centre

(Smithers) 250 847-6600

This guide is intended for information purposes only. It is not legal advice. The *Wildfire Act* and Wildfire Regulation are available online.

Wildfire Act:

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/04031_01

Wildfire Regulation:

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/11_38_2005



RESPECT THE USE OF FIRE