**OPEN FIRE REGULATIONS**

40% of B.C. wildfires are human-caused and therefore preventable

**CAMPFIRES, CATEGORY 2 FIRES AND CATEGORY 3 FIRES: WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?**

**CAMPFIRE**
- Any fire no larger than 0.5 metres high by 0.5 metres wide

**REGULATIONS:**
- You must have ready access to 8 litres of water or a shovel for the entire time your campfire is lit.
- Your campfire must be completely extinguished and the ashes must be cool to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time. (Hot coals can reignite the fire.)
- During campfire prohibitions, only a CSA- or ULC-approved portable campfire apparatus may be used, and the flame height must not exceed 15 centimetres.
- You must build a fire guard around your campfire.

**CATEGORY 2 FIRE:**
- 1 to 2 concurrently burning piles no larger than 2 metres high by 3 metres wide
- Stubble or grass burning over an area less than 0.2 hectares

**REGULATIONS:**
- A fuel break must be established around any Category 2 burn area.
- Fireworks are banned when a Category 2 fire prohibition is in effect.
- Burning barrels are banned when a Category 2 fire prohibition is in effect.
- At least one person equipped with a fire-fighting hand tool must monitor the fire at all times.

**CATEGORY 3 FIRE:**
- Any fire larger than 2 metres high by 3 metres wide
- 3 or more concurrently burning piles no larger than 2 metres high by 3 metres wide
- 1 or more burning windrows
- Stubble or grass burning over an area greater than 0.2 hectares

**REGULATIONS:**
- A fuel break must be established around any Category 3 burn area.
- Monitor your open burn to ensure that the fire doesn’t spread beyond its intended size.
- You must have a burn registration number to light a Category 3 open fire. Call the burn registration line 1 888 797-1717 to obtain one.
- Do not burn when venting conditions are “Poor” or “Fair”. Always check here first: www.bcairquality.ca/readings/ventilation-index.html
- Please report wildfires by calling *5555 or 1 800 663-5555.

**GENERAL REGULATIONS:**
- Never burn in strong wind conditions.
- Your fire must be extinguished before leaving the area.
- Always keep your fire a safe distance away from nearby branches, wood and other combustible materials.

*Further bans and restrictions can be implemented at the Wildfire Management Branch’s discretion.

Anyone found in contravention of an open fire prohibition may be fined up to $1,150. If your fire escapes and results in a wildfire, you may be fined anywhere from $100,000 to $1 million and be sentenced to one year in prison. Please check with local government authorities for any other restrictions before lighting any open fire.

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**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**

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