Campfires, Category 2 Fires and Category 3 Fires: What’s the Difference?

**Campfire:**
- Any fire smaller 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.

**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.
- Do not conduct Category 2 or Category 3 burns when venting conditions are “Poor” or “Fair.” Always check here first: www.bcairquality.ca/readings/ventilation-index.html

*Further bans and restrictions can be implemented at the BC Wildfire Service’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.

Please report wildfires by calling *5555 or 1 800 663-5555.*

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