

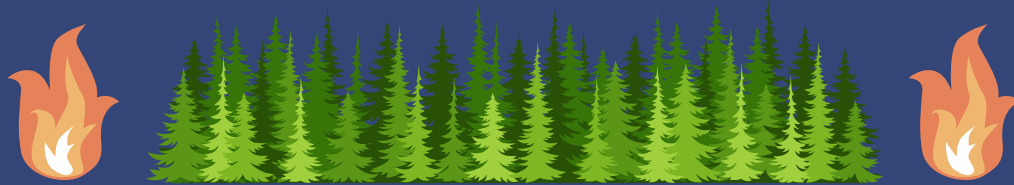
Fire, Smoke & Your Health:

What You Need to Know

Balancing healthy ecosystems with community well-being during controlled burns.

FIRE IS VITAL

Fire is essential in many ecosystems in British Columbia. The BC Wildfire Service works with partners on fuel management activities, including controlled burns, to reduce future wildfire intensity and protect communities. These efforts are carefully planned and executed under optimal conditions to ensure safety and reduce public health risks.



STAYING HEALTHY



Reducing exposure to smoke is the best way to protect your health.

EVERYBODY IS DIFFERENT



Smoke affects people differently, but pregnant people, young children, older adults, and those with respiratory or chronic conditions face higher health risks.

SMOKE MANAGEMENT

Smoke is an important consideration when planning a controlled burn. To protect public health and safety, controlled burns are carried out under conditions that limit smoke impacts. Every burn plan includes smoke management requirements and strategies, which generally fall into the following three categories.



AVOIDANCE

Conducting controlled burns at times when the weather conditions make it less likely for smoke to drift into nearby communities.



DILUTION

Reducing smoke by burning at times where air movement can help spread and reduce it, or by burning at a slower pace.



EMISSION

Employing a range of techniques during ignitions and mop-up to limit sources of long-term smoke, like smoldering.

IF YOUR AREA IS IMPACTED BY SMOKE



Keep your indoor air cleaner by closing doors and windows. Run [portable](#) or [DIY air cleaners](#).



Air quality can change quickly, monitor through this [Air Quality Map](#).



Stay indoors if possible or reduce length and intensity of outdoor activities.



Keep your rescue medications with you at all times when there is burning nearby.



Learn about other ways to reduce exposure by visiting [BCCDC's wildfire smoke fact sheets](#).