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To Report a Wildfire:
1-800-663-5555
Or Cell
*5555

You should know the difference between Category 2 and Category 3 open fires before you burn.

**You should also know your obligations before lighting any fire!
And check with your local jurisdiction before lighting a fire!**

Category 2 Open Fire

Many people engage in “backyard burns” in the fall as part of their yard clean up. This type of burning by homeowners usually falls within the “Category 2” classification in the *Wildfire Act and Regulation*.

Category 2 fires are fires that:

- burn material in one pile not exceeding 2 metres in height and 3 metres in width; or,
- burns material concurrently in 2 piles each not exceeding 2 metres in height and 3 metres in width;
- or burns stubble or grass over an area that does not exceed 0.2 hectares (less than 2,000 square metres.)

Because Category 2 fires are defined by size, they are pretty much any small to medium sized open fire that is not a campfire. This size of fire does not require registration or notification prior to lighting the fire but it does require monitoring and you should only light a fire if you feel confident that you have the means to put it out quickly should the need arise.

Category 3 Open Fire

Anything larger than a Category 2 fire, that is not a Resource Management fire is a Category 3 fire. These fires are often “land clearing” piles, and are often piled by machines.

If these fires are within Wildfire Management Branch jurisdiction, they must be registered by phoning 1-888-797-1717. They must abide by Wildfire Management Branch prohibitions, and the *Wildfire Act and Regulation*.

Should the fire escape, the people on site must attempt fire control if possible, and report the fire, the same as any other fire escape. However, they must continue fire control until relieved by an official.

They also must make more resources available to fight the fire: two pieces of heavy equipment, two fire suppression systems, and eleven workers each equipped with at least one fire fighting hand tool. They must also make available all workers, fire suppression systems, heavy equipment and fire fighting tools within 30 km by road if on Crown land, or all resources working on the land if the land is other than Crown land.

Are you going camping this weekend?

With the warm weather forecast for this weekend many people are heading out for that last chance to have a campfire. It is important that you remember a few things about having a campfire:

- 1) Despite the fact you may be allowed to have a Category 2 open fire, if you don't have the means to put it out, don't build it. Never build a fire too large to manage.
- 2) Make sure that you have the tools, or the means to put the fire out, on hand
- 3) Burn only woody debris—do not burn plastics, garbage or other materials

- 4) Ensure that conditions are right for burning, just because you are allowed to have a fire does not mean you can have a fire if the conditions are not appropriate.
- 5) Make sure your campfire does not escape
- 6) And please, make sure your campfire is completely extinguished when you leave the area.

We would like everyone to enjoy their time out in our forested lands but remember it is also up to all of us to help protect them.

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To Date in Coastal

Fires to Date

Person Caused **140**

Lighting Caused **55**

Total Number of Fires **193**

Fire Danger Rating as of **Sept 11**



Current Prohibitions (within WMB jurisdictional area)

Campfires—allowed **Category 2**—allowed in all areas except parts of the South Island Forest District

Category 3—allowed in all areas except parts of the South Island Forest District

Category 2 & 3—allowed in the 'Fog Zone'

Coastal Fires by Size

Fire Name	Size Hectares	Cause	Current Status	Evacuations (All Lifted) Alert/Order
Elaho	12, 523	Lightning	Patrol	None
Boulder Creek	6735	Lightning	Patrol	Order/Both sides of the Lillooet FSR from the 9 kilometre mark
Cougar Creek	2985	Lightning	Modified Response	Alert/Along the Nahatlatch FSR
Wood Lake	1386	Human	Patrol	Voluntary/Campsite
Dog Mountain	450	Human	Patrol	Order/20 Cabins
Old Sechelt Mine	423	Human	Patrol	Alert/18 homes
Spring Road	400	Human	Patrol	Voluntary/Campsite
Tsulquate River	17	Human	Out	Order/100 homes

At Coastal

To say this fire season has been a busy one is an understatement to say the least! The drought conditions, the long period of High/Extreme fire danger, and ultimately the number of hectares burned, 25,604 hectares, compared against the 10 year average of 2296 hectares.

The fire season, however, has not ended. With prohibitions being lifted in **most** areas (not all), businesses and individuals will start to burn their debris. According to the Wildfire Act and Regulations, however, no one can burn if conditions are not favourable. That means burning only in jurisdictions as, and when allowed, and only burning when conditions are favourable to do so.

For those who are conducting industrial burns or for private landowners go to: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/readings/ventilation-index.html>. This is a great site for venting readings and for general information about what those numbers mean.

Weather

SYNOPSIS: A weak outflow pattern in combination with mainly sunny skies under a strong late-summer ridge result in what should be the hottest and driest day of the remainder of the year. The outflow pattern weakens significantly overnight tonight while a cold front begins to approach from the northwest. By Saturday afternoon the remnants of the dry, west-east oriented cold front should become positioned over the North Island/Mid Coast bringing a few bands of cloud, cooler temperatures and strengthening winds to the northern third of the region. The south should remain unseasonably warm and dry under mainly sunny skies even as a switch to increasing inflow winds brings lower temperatures and higher humidities to most areas. Gusty winds should be seen in some southern areas Saturday night (favouring upper elevations) as the remnants of the cold front push to (or close to) the international border.

OUTLOOK: A relatively cool, dry & unstable airmass follow in behind Saturday's frontal passage for temperatures in the low twenties, humidities near 30% and winds in excess of 10km/hr in most areas, gusty at times on Sunday. An upper trough deepens just offshore Monday and Tuesday bringing cooler temperatures, a mix of sun and cloud and isolated showers to the region while a more significant wave of Pacific moisture holds just offshore.