



# Coastal Fire Centre

hot topics in Wildfire on the Coast

# Wildfire news

2017 ISSUE 10

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## Season Wrap-Up

### Harrison Lake East (V10484)

Location: 30 kilometres from the township of Harrison Hotsprings on the east side of Harrison Lake

Cause: Human-caused

Size: 202 hectares

Status: Out

Other: An Incident Management Team was initially assigned to this fire, then the Fraser Zone took it over.

Area Restriction Order – July 2, 2017

Forest Service Road Closure – Implemented July 4, 2017 and Rescinded July 28, 2017.



### Kaikash Creek (V91631)

Location: approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Port McNeill.

Cause: Human-caused

Size: 85 hectares

Status: Being Held, Modified Response

Other: This fire includes an area of steep terrain, which was inaccessible and unsafe for crews to access.

A successful burn-off operation occurred on this fire, burning fuels to the edge of the cut block, allowing crews to work along the fire's perimeter.



### Precipice Fire (VA0778)

Location: 52 kilometres east of Bella Coola

Cause: Lightning

Size: 7367 Hectares

Status: Being Held

Alerts and Orders: Order issued by the Central Coast Regional District on July 9, 2017, modified to an Alert on August 5, 2017 and rescinded September 15, 2017.

Other: This fire was transferred to the Cariboo Fire Centre to manage as part of the West Chilcotin complex.



The Nature of Things

November 5, 2017  
8pm

'Into the Fire'  
A documentary by  
Leora Eisen.

The Coastal Fire Centre would like to thank all members of the public for cooperating with the prohibitions in place this fire season, and for continuing to support our firefighters who often work in challenging conditions.

### Industrial and Resource Management Burning

When prohibitions are lifted in the Fall, the forest industry is able to take advantage of conditions to manage their debris. With the right to use fire to manage their slash, however, comes a number of regulations that the forest industry must adhere to.

Anyone who lights, fuels or makes use of a Category 3 open fire must comply with the Environmental Management Act and Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR). This requires individuals and companies to check venting conditions prior to lighting up. On Vancouver Island, forest companies have taken it one step further with a cooperative approach to managing airsheds in areas they want to conduct pile burns. The larger forest companies make agreements on what days they will burn (conditions allowing) and will work with other companies to make sure that not everyone in an area is burning on the same day. This reduces the

amount of smoke coming from a specific location.

When a company or an individual conduct a Resource Management Burn there is an obligation to produce a burn plan and adhere to it. This plan includes size, fuels, objectives and a plan for suppression in the event of an escape.

The *Wildfire Act* and Regulations are very specific in what is expected from anyone planning to conduct an Industrial or Resource Management Burn. For more information go to: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions/bcws\\_resourcegmt.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions/bcws_resourcegmt.pdf)

Burning this material in the fall/winter months is more advantageous to residents than having it dry and become fuel for wildfires during the heat of the summer. The Coastal Fire Centre supports responsible surface fuel reduction.

### At Coastal

Although it has been a relatively quiet fire season for the Coastal Fire Centre, provincially it has been one of the worst fire seasons on record. Since we are an organization which believes in continuous improvement our staff has been and continues to be actively involved in a series of debriefs.

Considering the indices experienced in the Coastal Fire Centre over the last few months, the number of fires has been lower than what was anticipated. Ignitions were low due to low lightning starts and person caused fires were also down slightly. Fires that were reported were responded to quickly and crews were able to keep most of them at the initial attack stage.

Crewmembers, Incident Management Team members and other staff, who worked on fires in the Cariboo, Kamloops and Southeast fire centres, will be responding to a series of questions designed to identify what went well and will make recommendations for changes in training, procedures and processes where needed.

It is important to remember that the BC Wildfire Service is a provincial response

organization. Crews and staff are deployed to the areas of the province that they are most needed. This does not mean that there is no coverage in other areas but means that crews are mobile and responsive where most needed.

Although we commend our staff for their hard work we can not downplay the role the public had in the lower number of fire starts. We like to think the public was onboard due to our efforts in educating and informing them but the reality is that the public was likely driven to more caution due to the devastation they witnessed in areas such as Ashcroft, 100 Mile House and other communities.

If nothing else this season should serve to remind residents of British Columbia that wildfires can be dangerous and can be life changing for those affected by them. When residents proactively cooperate with prohibitions, report wildfires quickly, support firefighters by reporting contraventions and remember that the onus is on each and everyone of us to take responsibility for our own property by FireSmarting, our communities become safer.

To Date  
in Coastal

#### Fires to Date

Person  
Caused **132**

Lighting  
Caused **9**

Total  
Number  
of Fires **141**

#### Fire Danger Rating today



Current Prohibitions  
(within BCWS  
jurisdictional area)

none

Please FireSmart  
your property!

[https://  
www.firemartcanada  
.ca/](https://www.firemartcanada.ca/)