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Category 2 Open Fire Prohibition

The Coastal Fire Centre does not currently have a Category 2 Open Fire Prohibition in place.

What is a Category 2 open fire?

According to the *Wildfire Regulation*:

A Category 2 open fire:

- burns waste material in one pile, not exceeding two metres in height and three metres in width;
- burns material concurrently in two piles, each not exceeding two metres in height and three metres in width;
- or burns stubble or grass over an area not exceeding 0.2 hectares.

A Category 2 open fire is commonly referred to as backyard burning or debris burning. It is generally allowed within the jurisdiction of the Coastal Fire Centre during wet months when there is less risk of the fire escaping or causing

damage.

However, the Coastal Fire Centre prohibits Category 2 open fires when it's anticipated that this type of fire could become hazardous.

A Category 2 open fire is not a campfire. A campfire is "an open fire that burns piled material no larger than 0.5 metre in height and 0.5 metre in diameter, used for recreation or ceremonial purposes."

Remember — over half of all wildfires in British Columbia each year are human-caused and are therefore preventable. Know the risks, know your responsibilities and know when not to light a fire.

You can check to see if a fire prohibition is in effect by visiting <http://bcwildfire.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>

Your Fire, Your Responsibility

If you want to light a campfire or a Category 2 open fire, you must:

- make sure there are no fire prohibitions in place (also check with your municipality or regional district);
- establish a fuel break around the area where you plan to light the fire;
- have the means available to extinguish the fire (e.g. garden hose, hand tools); and
- monitor the fire at all times, making sure that the size of the fire does not exceed two metres high by three metres wide.

If you need to leave the burn site for any reason, you must first extinguish the fire and ensure that the ashes are cold to the touch.

If the fire spreads beyond your control and you cannot extinguish it, you must report it immediately to the appropriate authorities. To report a wildfire, call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or *5555 on your cellphone.

Alternatives to Burning

Curb It	Curbside pick-up of yard waste is a convenient, affordable and increasingly available alternative. Find out if it's available in your area. If not, take the debris to a local transfer station.
Chip It	A chipper or shredder converts your yard waste into useful mulch or a perfect compost pile. The equipment comes in a range of sizes for different yard and garden applications. You can also hire professionals to do the work for you.
Compost It	Composting is a convenient and affordable way to manage yard waste. It creates nutrient-rich mulch that will improve your soil and the health of your plants.

To Date in Coastal	
Fires to Date	
Person Caused	12
Lighting Caused	0
Total Number of Fires	12
Number of Incidents Responded to	72
Fire Danger Rating today	
	
Current Prohibitions (within WMB jurisdictional area)	
none	

The WMB Values—Safety

One of the key values adopted by the Wildfire Management Branch is “safety”. This should come as no surprise, given how much safety is emphasized in everything our fire crews do. Keeping the public and our crews safe is the most important aspect of the job.

Safety is the first value listed in the *WMB Strategic Plan 2012-2017*:

- Affirm a “safety first” attitude and promote a culture of safety in ourselves and our workforce.
- Recognize risk and take appropriate action to minimize the impact on human resources from wildfire and other workplace hazards.
- Promote effective and collaborative communication on safety.

- Encourage and foster staff ownership, involvement and participation in safety.
- Emphasize the importance of personal health and wellness to support our people.
- WMB staff are proud of our safety record despite the potential risks in their work environment.

From a business standpoint attention to safety allows us to mitigate these risks and also allows us to keep works working and productive.

Putting an emphasis on employee safety during training and certification (and incorporating safety discussions in all planning sessions) underscores the Wildfire Management Branch’s commitment to protecting its staff from harm.

http://BCWildfire.ca / Strategic_Planning

At Coastal

The Coastal Fire Centre has not put a Category 2 Open Fire Prohibition in place but was seriously considering it during the hot spell we were experiencing two weeks ago. In light of the change in the weather and a downturn in the Fire Danger Ratings, however, it was decided to wait until the indices support the decision as per the Wildfire Act.

In the meantime, the crews have been extremely busy with training—a second round of hover exit certification (for those who missed the first round), helipad construction, danger tree assessment, project work for forest districts and parks, and fuels management projects. The crews are also doing some housekeeping including inventory control, base maintenance, preparing forward attack bases and assisting weather technicians with weather station maintenance. The list goes on to include: first aid scenarios, helicopter safety and job fair and school visits.

The Fraser Unit crew was also deployed this week to the Kamloops zone to assist on the fire in Ashcroft, along with other single resources.

Weather

SYNOPSIS: An upper low centre will persist off the coast of Vancouver Island today and Saturday. Expect variable amounts of cloud across the fire centre. A more extensive area of showers tomorrow. The southern half of Vancouver Island will likely be the driest through the period. Highs mostly in the mid teens both days. Light winds will prevail.

OUTLOOK: A weak upper low lies in the south with a trough extending northward Sunday and Monday. Expect isolated to scattered showers both days. A frontal system moving in from the Pacific will give occasional showers on Tuesday. Highs in the mid to upper teens with fairly light winds expected.

6 TO 10 DAY: The unsettled and rather cool pattern continues Wednesday and Thursday as an upper low centre persists off the Coast. A good chance of showers both days with temperatures staying in the mid teens. A ridge of high pressure should bring a warming and drying trend Friday through Sunday. Highs rising to the low twenties on the weekend.