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WITH THE HELP OF THE PUBLIC...

The reaction of the public when they see a wildfire is usually one of three things: they either ignore it, thinking someone else has called it in; phone the media or a friend; or phone the Wildfire Reporting Line.

Reporting the fire promptly aids fire crews in addressing the issue quickly. Smaller fires mean less damage to the area, less cost in fighting the fire and a decreased likelihood that a crew person will be injured fighting the fire.

One example of people who did the right thing are Sid Carnigie and Darrell Enger who were out fishing on Campbell Lake when they spotted an escaped campfire on a small island near the Recreation site. Sid, who is 71, and Darrell, took action on the fire, reportedly putting no less than 50 buckets (actually a water cooler) of water on the fire, until they determined that the fire was cool enough to leave. However, concerned that it may



have burned deep and having no hand tools, the pair reported the incident to the host of the site who contacted the Coastal Fire Centre. After they took action on the fire, Sid and Darrell continued to fish the area, keeping an eye on the area and saw no further signs of smoke.

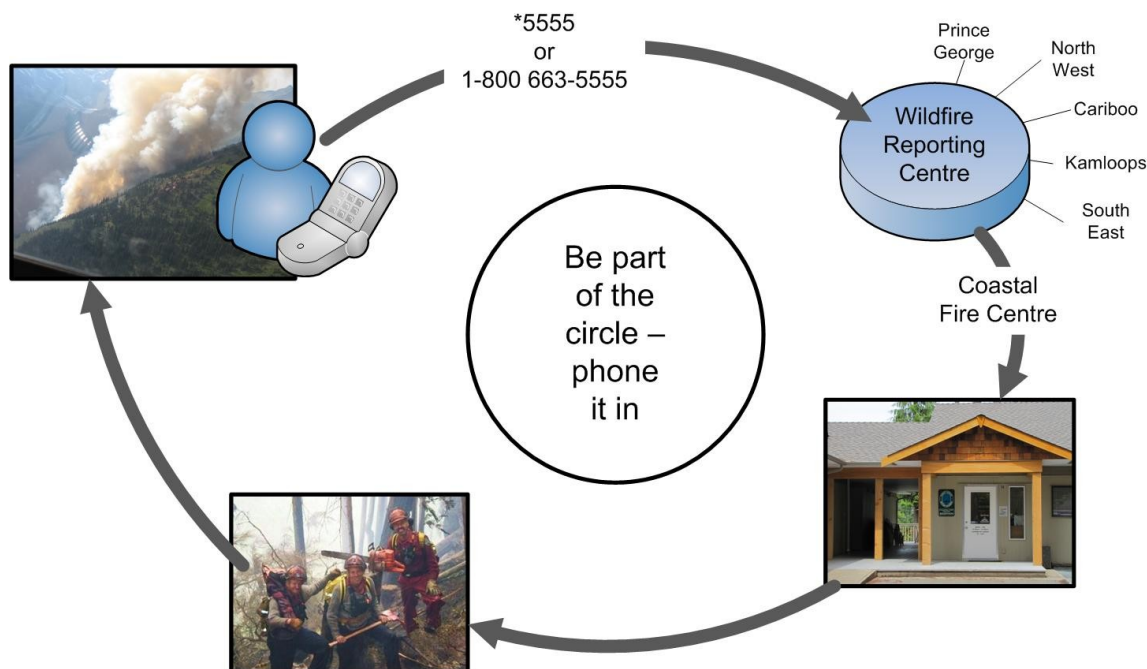


The Coastal Fire Centre appreciates the help and support of the public.

You may not be able to do what these two intrepid outdoorsmen did

but we do ask that if you do see smoke do the right thing and call it in!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PHONE



To Date
in
Coastal

Fires to Date

Person
Caused 68

Lighting
Caused 3

Total
Number
of Fires 71

Hectares
burnt 26

Number of
Incidents
Responded
to 929

Fire Danger
Rating



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OUTFLOW AND INFLOW WINDS

Inflow and **Outflow** winds are part of a larger weather pattern on the coast. Inflow winds are those that originate over water and flow largely in an easterly direction, over the ocean, carrying moisture. Outflow winds originate on land and flow

towards the water and have little or no moisture.

This season in the Coastal Fire Centre the winds have been predominantly inflow. But now a pattern of outflow winds have caused the **Relative Humidity** to plummet. Relative humidity is a measurement of moisture in the air. What this means for Coastal is that we are moving into a period of extremely dry weather for this time of year. The fine fuels that were already dry will become increasingly dry over the next week.

Morrison, Taylor. *Wildfire*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005.



Today At Coastal

Things are definitely drying out. Fire Danger ratings are climbing, and most of Vancouver Island is in High, with Extreme ratings from Port Alberni/Parksville south on the east coast of the island. The mainland is also mostly in High, with Extreme in Manning Park, near Harrison Lake and Whistler.

Our crews have been given a heads up that wildfires can grow quickly (up to 5 Hectares in size in about 30 minutes on flat land—faster on slopes with wind or beetle kill).

What does this mean? A spark could start a wildfire easily and it can spread like—well—wildfire.

We urge you: don't make the spark, and call in immediately if you see smoke or a wildfire!

Weather

SYNOPSIS.. A very warm day yesterday with moderate humidity and reasonably light winds. The large scale pattern remains much the same today with a massive upper ridge parked over BC and a weak surface outflow pattern will produce another day like yesterday. And as the pattern remains the same tomorrow and Sunday, the forecast does not change.

OUTLOOK.. Sooner or later the ridge will break down and that looks to start on Monday. The ridge weakens and drifts east as the upper flow swings to the southwest which will bring cooler temperatures early in the week but probably no rainfall.

LONG TERM TREND.. Earlier this week long range maps showed a good chance of rainfall in Coastal zones by next Thursday or Friday, but the maps this morning are much drier and it may be that no significant rain will show up until the last week of September.