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To report a
wildfire:

1-800-663-5555
Or
*5555

Category 2 Open Fires—Ban Not Completely Lifted Yet

It might feel like fall, it be starting to look like fall and the days are getting shorter, but it just hasn't reached the point when burning yard debris is safe in all areas. That is why burning restrictions remain in place throughout much of the Coastal Fire Centre.

- * According to the Wildfire Act, a Category 2 open fire is a fire that:
- * Burns material in one pile not exceeding two metres in height and three metres in width; or,
- * 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 that does not exceed 0.2 hectares.

While we know you want to get all those outside chores taken care of, now is not the right time. The public will be alerted when the ban is lifted.

For more information on what a Category 2 Open Burn is go to our website:

www.bcwildfire.ca.

Why Not Consider Composting?

Why destroy all those nutrients that most gardeners pay big money to replenish their gardens with? Instead of burning debris, try composting!

- * If you have neighbours who are also disposing of their yard waste, why not rent a chipper together and grind the larger debris all in one day.
- * Instead of burning your leaves, use a bag mower and pick up the leaves, then add the small pieces to your compost. By spring, you will have wonderfully rich soil to add to your garden beds.
- * Stockpiling leaves beside your compost bin and adding them throughout the winter enriches your compost.
- * Composting reduces yard waste volume by 50 to 75 per cent.

Today At Coastal

Effective noon today, September 23, 2011, backyard burning will be allowed in within the specific areas of the Regional District boundaries of Strathcona, Mount Waddington, Central Coast, and Skeena-Queen Charlotte. These types of open fires are also permitted within the 2 kilometre fog zone along western Vancouver Island within the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

Details on the partial lift of the ban can be found on: www.bcwildfire.ca. Please remember if you are going to burn do so responsibly, with adequate tools on hand, attend the fire and do not leave the fire unattended.

The Coastal Fire Centre will lift the ban for remaining areas within the centre on October 3, 2011, if weather conditions are favourable to the lift.

To Date in Coastal

Fires to Date

Person
Caused **83**

Lighting
Caused **3**

Total
Number
of Fires **86**

Hectares
burnt **30**

Number of
Incidents
Responded
to **1026**

Fire Danger Rating



**As of
Sept. 23, 2011**

Very Low/Low

See detailed weather
forecast

When Burning Debris, Do It Safely and Courteously

Fall in the Coastal Fire Centre not only means a return to cool, crisp weather but a whiff of burning leaves from backyards as residents tidy and dispose of vegetation.

When burning is allowed (please check in your area what the restrictions are), following safe practices will reduce any risk inherent in burning:

- 1) Never burn close to any structure, including fences, sheds and other potential hazards.
- 2) An adult must be present at all times and have the means to put the fire out whether that is a hand tool or a connected hose. Stay with

the fire until it is completely out.

3) Burn only yard waste generated from your property. Do not burn garbage, household waste or construction material. Do not burn grass clippings.

4) Burn late in the day when there is no wind and humidity is increasing and check the weather forecast. Avoid burning on hot, windy days.

6) Be aware of the direction the smoke is going. You do not want to create a smoke hazard for your neighbours or, if you live near a busy road, for passing motorists.

7) Make sure you have your fire built on mineral soil with an adequate control area around the fire.

If You Must Burn...

You may do so ONLY when the Category 2 ban is lifted in your region!

If the only way you can manage to dispose of your yard debris is to burn do it quickly and with minimal smoke. Here are some tips to help you get ready to burn this fall.

Over the month of September, accumulate small piles of debris and cover them with plastic. This allows the piles to dry completely rather than leaving them wholly to the elements where they will dry for a time but get rained on periodically. The drier the piles, the quicker they will burn. This will lessen the amount of smoke produced.

Another tool you may want to use is Environment Canada's Venting Index. Use the Index found at http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/forecast/textforecast_e.html?Bulletin=flcn39.cwvr and choose a day (when the ban is lifted in your area) that is "good".

Know your local burning bylaws. Remember, municipalities and regional districts bylaws take precedence over that of the Coastal Fire Centre so check locally. Outside of the municipal or regional boundaries you must follow the regulations set forth by the Wildfire Management Branch.

WEATHER

SYNOPSIS.. An active front stalled over central Vancouver Island is bringing rain north of Comox all the way up to Kitimat. The front will remain nearly stationary today and then shift a bit further north tomorrow leaving the southern Island and the southern BC mainland dry and warm. Maybe very warm. Kamloops is currently a balmy 25 degrees and most of the coast is reporting values in the high teens at the moment. Afternoon highs likely reach the mid 20s today and there be at least a few temperature records. And more records tomorrow as the warm moist but not rainy upper flow continues Saturday.

OUTLOOK.. By Sunday morning the stalled front is on the move again kicking eastward to bring further periods of rain to all Coastal zones. The rainfalls are not likely to be nearly as heavy as the last few days but will be persistent.

Periods of rain continue well into next week with the wet upper flow pointed directly at Vancouver Island.

LONG TERM TREND.. On and off again rainfalls continue through the end of the month a week from now.