
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
April 11, 2022

Ministry of Forests
BC Wildfire Service

Open fire prohibitions to take effect this Friday

SMITHERS – The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) will be implementing a Category 2 and 3 open fire prohibition due to current and forecast weather conditions in parts of the Northwest Fire Centre (NWFC). The prohibition will take effect 12:00 noon Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) on Friday, April 15, 2022.

Despite the current cooler temperatures throughout the region, relative humidity levels are low throughout areas of the NWFC. Gusting winds, little precipitation and a warming trend is in the long-term forecast and are the trigger points for this pro-active open fire prohibition.

The NWFC has recently responded to several escaped grass fires with one fire burning down an outbuilding. With a low humidity forecast, burning conditions become more hazardous; and with windy conditions a grass fire can spread very quickly. Local winds are often strongest in the afternoon and just as the sun is going down.

This Category 2 and 3 open fire prohibition is meant to restrict all backyard burning projects and larger industry pile burning. Typically, for this time of year these activities are the leading causes of wildfires in the NWFC. The prohibition will cover the Nadina and Bulkley Fire Zones in their entirety and a portion of the Skeena Fire Zone known as the old Kalum District.

The following activities will be prohibited until monitored weather conditions are favourable for these activities to resume.

category 2 open fires

- a) material in 1 or 2 piles not exceeding 2-metres in height and 3-metres in width, or
- b) stubble or grass burning over an area that does not exceed 0.2 hectares.

category 3 open fires

- a) any fire larger than 2-metres high by 3-metres wide,
- b) 3 or more concurrently burning piles no larger than 2-metres high by 3-metres wide,
- c) 1 or more burning windrows, or
- d) stubble or grass burning over an area greater than 0.2 hectares.

This prohibition does not apply to campfires that are a half-metre high by a half-metre wide or smaller, or to fireworks, firecrackers or sky lanterns. A poster explaining the different categories of open burning is available online: www.gov.bc.ca/openfireregs

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If a wildfire occurs as a result of your burning, you may be found responsible for the government's fire control costs and any related damages to Crown resources. In addition, there are administrative penalties of up to \$100,000 that may be levied for failing to comply with your obligations under the *Wildfire Act* and Regulation.

To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or *5555 on a cellphone. For up-to-date information on current wildfire activity download the BCWildfire Service app or visit www.bcwildfire.ca.

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