
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
June 23, 2021

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development
BC Wildfire Service

Open fires to be prohibited throughout Northwest Fire Centre

SMITHERS – The current forecast for the Northwest Fire Centre (NWFC) jurisdiction area is calling for elevated temperatures through this weekend. Given this weather trend, the BC Wildfire Service is implementing a Category 2 and Category 3 open fire prohibition effective at 12:00 noon Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) on Friday, June 25, 2021.

A map of the affected area is available online: <http://ow.ly/3vQE50Fh8AA>

This prohibition applies to all public and private land in the Northwest Fire Centre boundary, unless specified otherwise (e.g., in a local government bylaw). The NWFC boundary stretches from the west coast to just west of Endako and from the Yukon border to Tweedsmuir Provincial Park.

The following activities will be prohibited, and will remain in effect until 12:00 noon PDT on October 15, 2021 or until the public is otherwise notified:

category 2 open fires

- a) material in one pile not exceeding 2-metres in height and 3-metres in width,
- b) material concurrently in 2 piles each not exceeding 2-metres in height and 3-metres in width, or
- c) burns stubble or grass 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) material in one or more piles each exceeding 2-metres in height or 3-metres in width,
- c) one or more burning windrows, or
- d) stubble or grass over an area exceeding 0.2 hectares.

Also prohibited are the activities listed below (*Wildfire Act, Section 12*):

- fireworks, including firecrackers; and,
- sky lanterns.

This prohibition does not apply to campfires that are a half-metre high by a half-metre wide or smaller, or to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes. A poster explaining the different categories of open burning is available online: www.gov.bc.ca/openfireregs

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Anyone lighting a campfire must maintain a fireguard by removing flammable debris from around the campfire area and have a hand tool or at least eight litres of water available nearby to properly extinguish the fire.

Anyone found in contravention of an open fire prohibition may be issued a violation ticket for \$1,150, required to pay an administrative penalty of up to \$10,000 or, if convicted in court, fined up to \$100,000 and/or sentenced to one year in jail. If the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs.

To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open fire violation, call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or *5555 on a cell phone. For the latest information on current wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, go to: <http://www.bcwildfire.ca>

Follow the latest wildfire news:

- on the free BC Wildfire Service public mobile app, available for Apple (iOS) and Android devices
- on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo>
- on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo>

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