
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource
Operations
BC Wildfire Service

Category 2 open fires to be prohibited in Southeast

CASTLEGAR – Effective at noon Pacific Time on Monday, July 3, 2017, Category 2 open fires will be prohibited throughout the Southeast Fire Centre to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety.

This Category 2 prohibition is in addition to the Category 3 open fire prohibition that came into effect in the Southeast Fire Centre on June 15, 2017. A poster explaining the different categories of open burning is available online at: www.gov.bc.ca/openfireregs

Anyone intending to conduct a Category 2 open fire anywhere in the Southeast Fire Centre must extinguish it by 12 noon on July 3, 2017. This prohibition will remain in place until the public is otherwise notified.

Specifically, prohibited Category 2 and Category 3 activities will include:

- the burning of any waste, slash or other materials
- stubble or grass fires of any size over any area
- the use of fireworks, sky lanterns and burning barrels
- burning cages or air curtain burners
- binary exploding targets (e.g. for target practice)

This prohibition does not ban campfires that are a half-metre high by a half-metre wide or smaller, and it does not apply to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes.

This prohibition covers all BC Parks, Crown lands and private lands, but does not apply within the boundaries of a local government that has forest fire prevention bylaws and is serviced by a fire department. Please check with local authorities for any other restrictions before lighting any fire.

A map of the areas affected by the Category 2 and Category 3 open fire prohibitions is available online at: <http://ow.ly/eHjD30d8mcP>

The Southeast Fire Centre extends from the U.S. border in the south to Mica Dam in the north and from the Okanagan Highlands and Monashee Mountains in the west to the B.C.-Alberta border in the east. It includes the Selkirk Natural Resource District and the Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District.

Campfires are currently allowed in the Southeast Fire Centre, but anyone lighting a campfire must maintain a fireguard by removing flammable debris from around the campfire area and must have a hand tool or at least eight litres of water available nearby to properly extinguish

the fire.

A campfire should not be lit or kept burning in windy conditions, and it should never be left unattended. Make sure the fire is fully extinguished and the ashes are cold to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time.

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

You can also follow the latest wildfire news on:

- Twitter at <http://twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo>
- Facebook at <http://facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo>

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