

## Important Contacts



### To Report a Wildfire

1-800-663-5555

or \*5555 from a cellular phone

### Fire Information by Phone

For recorded information on campfires, open fire bans and travel restrictions, call toll-free: **1-888-3FOREST** (1-888-336-7378)

### Fire Information through the Internet

Visit the Ministry of Forests and Range Protection Program website at [www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect) for:

- campfire bans or open fire restrictions
- travel restrictions
- maps showing fire danger class, rating temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, and wind speed



## RESPECT THE USE OF FIRE

# STOVES & CAMPFIRES



### A Guide to Open Fires in Outdoor Stoves and Category 1 Open Fires



## Open Fires In Outdoor Stoves

In British Columbia, the *Wildfire Act* and Regulation specifies your legal obligations when using fire in, or within, one kilometre of forest land or grassland.

Under the Regulation, an **open fire in an outdoor stove** is a stove that uses liquid or gaseous fuel, or briquettes. It does not include a fire vented through a structure that has a flue and is incorporated in a building.

In order to be considered an “open fire in an outdoor stove,” a stove must be manufactured for the purpose of heating or cooking. An outdoor stove may be used unless restrictions on their use are in effect.

A person may light, fuel or use an outdoor stove for its intended purpose of heating or cooking, in or within one kilometre of forest or grassland when:

- There are no bans or restrictions in place for doing so;
- Doing so is, and will continue to be, safe;
- Reasonable precautions are taken to ensure the fire is contained in the stove;
- The person ensures the fire does not escape;
- The person takes immediate action to carry out fire control and report the fire if it does escape; and
- The person ensures the fire is extinguished before leaving the area.



## Category 1 Open Fires (Campfires)

Under the Wildfire Regulation, a campfire is considered a Category 1 open fire.

A **Category 1 open fire** means an open fire that burns piled material no larger than 1 metre in height and 1 metre in diameter and includes a campfire.

A person may light or make use of a Category 1 open fire when:

- There are no other restrictions in place for doing so;
- Doing so is, and will continue to be, safe;
- Reasonable precautions are taken to ensure the fire is contained;
- The person is equipped with at least one fire fighting hand tool and attends the fire to prevent its escape;
- The person carries out fire control and reports the fire if it spreads beyond the burn area; and
- The person ensures the fire is extinguished before leaving the area.

### Fireworks

Under the Wildfire Regulation, the use or preparation of fireworks or pyrotechnics is considered a high risk activity. For more information about conducting a high risk activity on or within 300 metres of forest land or grassland, see Sections 1 and 6 of the Wildfire Regulation, online at [www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect)



## Build a Better Campfire

Careless use of campfires is one of the leading causes of forest fires. Wildfires threaten lives of people and wildlife, destroy timber and other forest resources and cost millions of dollars to extinguish.



Reasonable distance away from combustibles considering wind conditions



### Steps to a better campfire

- Check with authorities to find out if there are restrictions on the use of campfires.
- Consider the wind conditions. If the wind is strong enough to carry sparks to combustible material, don't burn.
- Site your campfire carefully. Use a safe, established fire pit.
- Keep the fire a reasonable distance away from any flammable materials, including logs, stumps, snags, standing trees, and wooden structures.
- Keep your fire small. The best cooking fire is small and hot.
- Keep adequate hand tools and water nearby in case the fire escapes.
- Never leave fire unattended.
- Extinguish your fire by stirring water into the ashes until it is cold to the touch — hot coals can reignite the fire.



## About the Wildfire Act

The *Wildfire Act* was brought into force on March 31, 2005, replacing previous provisions under the Forest Practices Code.

The *Wildfire Act* specifies your legal obligations when using fire for campfires, backyard burning, industrial/agricultural burning and resource management purposes. It reflects a new approach to wildfire prevention and control in British Columbia that puts the onus on those persons using open fire to ensure their activities do not lead to wildfires.

Contravention of the *Wildfire Act* is an offence. A person who contravenes the *Wildfire Act* may be liable for an administrative penalty, a fine upon conviction, and/or fire fighting, damages and rehabilitation costs as specified in the *Wildfire Act*.

### Where the Act applies

The *Wildfire Act* applies on both public (Crown) and private land throughout B.C.

Check with your local fire department, municipality, improvement district or regional district to determine if there are local bylaws that pertain to open fires. If there are local bylaws in place, these agencies will provide further information.



## Still not sure?

If you need help planning your burning activities, contact the B.C. Forest Service Fire Centre office nearest you:

**Coastal Fire Centre**  
(Parksville) 250 951-4222

**Kamloops Fire Centre**  
(Kamloops) 250 554-5500

**South East Fire Centre**  
(Castlegar) 250 365-4040

**Cariboo Fire Centre**  
(Williams Lake) 250 989-2600

**Prince George Fire Centre**  
(Prince George) 250 565-6124

**North West Fire Centre**  
(Smithers) 250 847-6600

*This guide is intended for information purposes only. It is not legal advice. The Wildfire Act and Regulation is online at: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect)*



**RESPECT THE USE OF FIRE**