
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2019FLNR0165-001208
June 7, 2019

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

Fire prohibitions to start in Kamloops Fire Centre

KAMLOOPS – Effective at noon on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, Category 2 and Category 3 open fires, as well as some other activities and the use of certain equipment, will be restricted throughout the Kamloops Fire Centre to help prevent human-caused wildfires.

This prohibition will remain in effect until noon on Oct. 15, 2019, or until the order is rescinded. Anyone conducting Category 2 or Category 3 burns within the Kamloops Fire Centre's jurisdiction must extinguish those fires by the June 12 deadline.

A map of the affected area is available online at: <http://ow.ly/Ah4h30oUb2Z>

This prohibition does not ban campfires that are a half-metre high by a half-metre wide (or smaller) and does not apply to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes. A poster explaining the different categories of open burning is available online at: <http://ow.ly/znnv309kJv5>

Specifically, prohibited activities will include:

- the burning of one or more open fires larger than one metre high by two metres wide;
- stubble or grass fires of any size;
- the use of fireworks, firecrackers, sky lanterns, tiki torches (and similar kinds of torches);
- the use of burning barrels and burning cages of any size or description; and
- the use of binary exploding targets (pre-packaged or homemade explosives such as Tannerite, Thundershot, Gryphon, Firebird SS65, Sure Shot, or similar products).

These prohibitions apply to all public and private land within the Kamloops Fire Centre, unless specified otherwise (e.g., in a local government bylaw). Before lighting any fire, people should check with local government authorities to see if any other burning restrictions are in effect.

Anyone found in contravention of an open burning prohibition may be issued a 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.

The Kamloops Fire Centre thanks the public for its continued help in preventing wildfires. Report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation by calling 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, go to: <http://www.bcwildfire.ca>

Follow the latest B.C. wildfire news:

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

Contact:

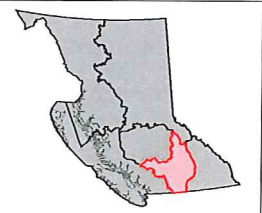
Fire Information Officer
BC Wildfire Service
Kamloops Fire Centre
250 554-5965

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect



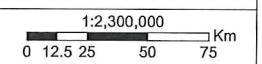
Kamloops Fire Centre Prohibition Areas

- Prohibition Area*
- Prohibition Area in BC Park / Protected Area*
- Kamloops Fire Centre
- Fire Zone Boundary
- BC Park / Protected Area
- National Park



Effective Date: 12:00 (noon) Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) June 12, 2019 - 12:00 (noon) PDT October 15, 2019

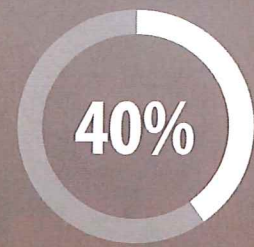
- *Prohibition Area restricts the following;
- Category 2 open fire as defined in the Wildfire Regulation
 - Category 3 open fire as defined in the Wildfire Regulation
 - Fireworks, including firecrackers;
 - Sky Lanterns;
 - Burn Barrels or Burn Cages of any size or description;
 - Binary Exploding Targets (pre-packaged or homemade explosives such as Tannerite, Thundershot, Gyphon, Firebird SS65, Sureshot, or similar products);
 - Tiki and similar kind of torches.



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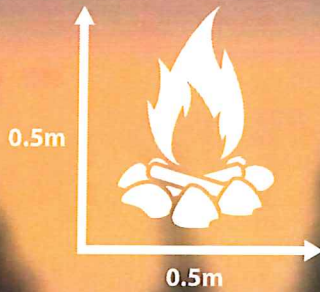
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OPEN FIRE REGULATIONS



40% of B.C. wildfires are human-caused and therefore preventable

CAMPFIRES, CATEGORY 2 FIRES AND CATEGORY 3 FIRES: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



CAMPFIRE:

- Any fire smaller than 0.5 metres high by 0.5 metres wide

REGULATIONS:



You must have ready access to 8 litres of water or a shovel for the entire time your campfire is lit.



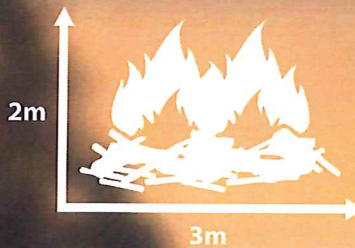
Your campfire must be completely extinguished and the ashes must be cool to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time. (Hot coals can reignite the fire.)



During campfire prohibitions, only a CSA- or ULC-approved portable campfire apparatus may be used, and the flame height must not exceed 15 centimetres.



You must build a fire guard around your campfire.



CATEGORY 2 FIRE:

- 1 to 2 concurrently burning piles no larger than 2 metres high by 3 metres wide
- Stubble or grass burning over an area less than 0.2 hectares

REGULATIONS:



A fuel break must be established around any Category 2 burn area.



Fireworks are banned when a Category 2 fire prohibition is in effect.



Burning barrels are banned when a Category 2 fire prohibition is in effect.



At least one person equipped with a fire-fighting hand tool must monitor the fire at all times.



CATEGORY 3 FIRE:

- Any fire larger than 2 metres high by 3 metres wide
- 3 or more concurrently burning piles no larger than 2 metres high by 3 metres wide
- 1 or more burning windrows
- Stubble or grass burning over an area greater than 0.2 hectares

REGULATIONS:



A fuel break must be established around any Category 3 burn area.



Monitor your open burn to ensure that the fire doesn't spread beyond its intended size.



You must have a burn registration number to light a Category 3 open fire. Call the burn registration line 1 888 797-1717 to obtain one.

GENERAL REGULATIONS:



Never burn in strong wind conditions.



Your fire must be extinguished before leaving the area.



Always keep your fire a safe distance away from nearby branches, wood and other combustible materials.



Do not conduct Category 2 or Category 3 burns when venting conditions are "Poor" or "Fair". Always check here first: www.bcairquality.ca/readings/ventilation-index.html

*Further bans and restrictions can be implemented at the BC Wildfire Service's discretion.



Anyone found in contravention of an open fire prohibition may be fined up to \$1,150. If your fire escapes and results in a wildfire, you may be fined anywhere from \$100,000 to \$1 million and be sentenced to one year in prison. Please check with local government authorities for any other restrictions before lighting any open fire.

Please report wildfires by calling
*5555 or 1 800 663-5555.