

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 Online

Visit the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Wildfire Management Branch website at bcwildfire.ca for:

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



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

RESPECT THE USE OF FIRE

CAMPFIRES



A Guide to Campfires and Outdoor Stoves



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Stoves and Portable Campfires

An **outdoor stove** is a device that uses liquid or gaseous fuel, or briquettes, and is manufactured for the purpose of heating or cooking. It does not include a fire vented through a structure that has a flue and is incorporated in a building.

A **portable campfire apparatus** is a free standing fireplace that burns liquid or gaseous fuel designed to provide ambiance and heat. The flame is usually open to the elements but may have grating to assist with cooking food.

During campfire prohibitions, only CSA or ULC approved portable campfire devices may be used and flame length must not exceed 15 centimeters.

When conditions warrant, portable campfire apparatus or outdoor stoves may be further restricted or prohibited.

When using any device you are required to:

- Operate the apparatus as specified by the manufacturer;
 - Take reasonable precautions to ensure the fire is contained;
 - Take immediate action to carry out fire control and report the fire if it does escape;
 - Turn the unit off when not attended.
- If a device is placed on the ground you must:
- Place the unit on mineral soil, gravel, sand or a non-combustible surface;
 - Maintain an adequate fire guard around the device, free of flammable materials.



Campfires

A **campfire** means an open fire that burns piled material no larger than 0.5 metres in height and 0.5 metres in diameter.

A person may light or make use of a campfire 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 a hand tool, such as a shovel, or at least eight litres of water, and attends the fire to prevent its escape;
- The person maintains a fireguard;
- The person carries out fire control and reports the fire if it spreads beyond the burn area;
- The person ensures the fire is extinguished before leaving the area.

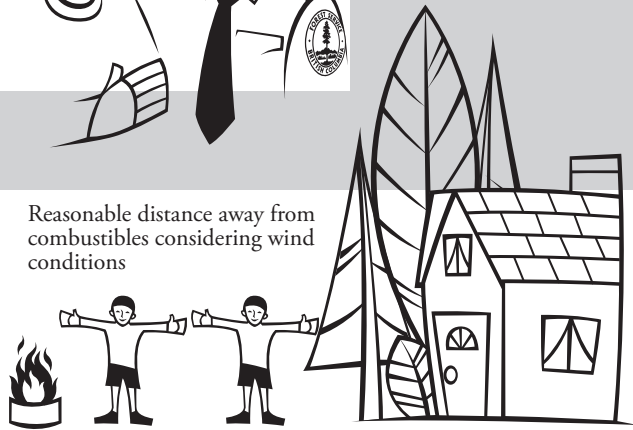


Build a Better Campfire

Careless use of campfires is one of the leading causes of wildfires. 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.
- A fire break must surround your fire – create one by scraping down the dirt – one metre around the fire.
- Keep the fire a reasonable distance away from any flammable materials, including all trees, and wooden structures.
- Keep your fire small. The best cooking fire is small and hot.
- Keep a shovel and at least eight litres of water nearby in case the fire escapes.
- Never leave fire a campfire 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 specifies your legal obligations when using fire for campfires, backyard burning, industrial/agricultural burning and resource management purposes. It 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 Wildfire Management Branch 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

Northwest 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: bcwildfire.ca.



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