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We're Ready. Are You?

Every year our fire crews prepare for the fire season by getting themselves in top physical shape and training hard. They know their jobs and are up to the task, but here are a few ways you can help make their job safer:

If you smoke, put your cigarette out. Do not throw it out your vehicle window! In 2010, 11 fire starts were attributed to smoking. These unnecessary fires can be prevented by putting cigarettes out in an ashtray, where they belong.

British Columbians love camping and the great outdoors. However, we do not love putting out campfires that have not been properly extinguished or have escaped due to carelessness or negligence. Follow the rules for campfire safety and have a wonderful outdoor experience.

If you see a wildfire report it! It's as simple as picking up your cell phone and dialling *5555 or



1-800-663-5555.

We will want to know: your name and a phone number in case we have to call you back; where the fire is or an approximate location; the size (is it the size of a campfire or a football field?); what is burning (is it trees, grass, or brush?); if there is smoke (is it white, grey, black, brown, blue or none visible?); are people attempting to fight the fire; if the fire is spreading; and if it is

close to any values (such as structures, roads or infrastructure). Providing information calmly and with as much detail as possible is important and helps us get those fires out quickly and safely.

Backyard Burning—No!

On May 16, 2011 Category 2 open fires were prohibited in all of the Coastal Fire Centre's jurisdiction, with the exception of Haida Gwaii. The ban specifically bans:

- Burning any material, piled or unpiled, smaller than two metres in height and three metres in width, including burn barrels; and
- Burning stubble or grass over an area less than 0.2 hectares

People lighting larger fires, or more than two fires of any size, must comply with burning regulations and obtain a burn registration number by calling 1-888-797-1717.



This ban covers all BC Parks, Crown and private lands, but does not apply within the boundaries of local governments that have open fire bylaws and are serviced by a fire department. Please check with local authorities for any restrictions before lighting a fire.

For the latest information on prohibitions please visit our website at: www.BCwildfire.ca.

Campfire: Yes! But...

Campfires are still allowed in the Coastal Fire Centre. It's important, however, to know what a legal campfire is and how to build one properly.

- 1) Prepare your campfire by removing all leaves, twigs and other flammable material extending at least 30 centimetres around the fire.
- 2) Be sure the fire or firepit is on mineral soil.
- 3) Build your campfires at least three metres from any logs, stumps, snags, standing trees or wooden structures.
- 4) Campfires can not be larger than 0.5 metres in height and 0.5 metres in diameter and you must have a shovel or 8 litres of water nearby.
- 5) You must be present at your campfire at all times and be certain it is extinguished before leaving it. Sift the ashes with your fingers to be sure.

Having a campfire larger than 0.5 by 0.5 metres could result in a fine of \$345.

To Date in Coastal

Fires to Date

Person Caused 34

Lighting Caused 0

Total Number of Fires Actioned 34

Hectares burnt 21

Number of Incidents Responded To this year 367

Fire Danger Rating



Moderate

Be Safe!

Fire Danger Rating

The Fire Danger Rating signs that you see at the side of the road represent a complex evaluation process developed in the 1960s called the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS). This evaluation system that determines whether the fire risk is low, moderate, high or extreme is comprised of two major subsystems: the Fire Weather Index (FWI) system and the Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) system.

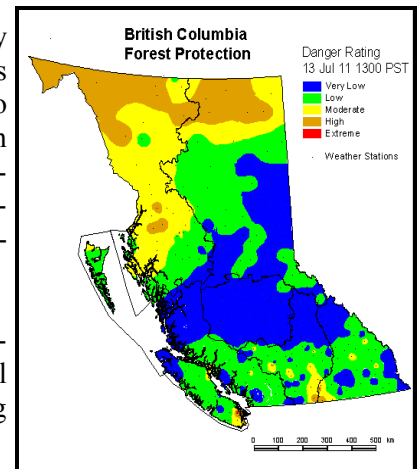
The FWI system is made up of several components, including: the Fine Fuel Moisture Code, the Duff Moisture Code, the Drought Code, the Initial Spread Index, and the Build-Up Index. These measure how dry the air is and how quickly fire could spread.

The FBP system addresses the actual fuel types. This system uses the best scientific

information available regarding rate of spread, fuel consumption and intensity.

The geography of the area is then taken into consideration using a computer based geographic information system.

Human behaviour is the final determining factor.



Today At Coastal

Due to current weather conditions the Coastal Fire Centre has been able to export personnel to other Provinces for wildfire response. Earlier this season staff were exported to Alberta and the Yukon.

The current request by Ontario has resulted in the 27th deployment of personnel this season. Of the 360 Wildfire Management Branch staff transported to Ontario, 57 are from the Coastal Fire Centre. These resources include: 2 Unit Crews (20 per), 2 Initial Attack Crews (3 per), and 11 individuals who are assigned to one of two Incident Management Teams or sent as single resources. Approximately 15% of all resources sent to Ontario have been from the Coastal Fire Centre.

It is a good time to remind people that despite the cool weather and scattered precipitation there have been 34 fire starts to date. These fires were all human-caused. Forest fuels are still dry where they are protected from rainfall by rocks and slash. And although the Fire Danger Rating is at Moderate it only takes a 48 hour period of hot, dry weather to push it back into High.

Weather

SYNOPSIS.. A disturbance ahead of an upper low centre moving southward along the BC coast will give periods of rain to the west coast of Vancouver Island. Only scattered showers elsewhere today. The rain will spread eastward to the Coast Mountains and Lower Mainland tonight and Saturday. Heaviest amounts of rain should be over southern areas where up to 25 millimetres is likely in some locations by later tomorrow.

OUTLOOK.. The upper low centre persists off the south coast on Sunday and Monday. However somewhat drier conditions are anticipated. Expect Variable cloudiness with isolated to scattered showers both days. Another frontal system should bring an increasing chance of showers on Tuesday. Highs in the upper teens to near 20 at some locations Sunday and Monday cooling a couple of degrees on Tuesday.

LONG TERM TREND.. A trend towards somewhat warmer and drier conditions Wednesday and Thursday as a weak ridge of high pressure builds over the fire centre. Isolated showers still expected on Wednesday but Thursday should be dry. More showers are anticipated Friday through Monday as another upper low centre drops down from the northwest. Temperatures warming to the low twenties at inland locations then cooling a few degrees by the end of the week.