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ABANDONED CAMPFIRES

Campfires are allowed in the Coastal Fire Centre, but having a campfire comes with a responsibility to manage and put it out properly.

An abandoned campfire is any campfire left burning when someone has left the area, but also refers to campfires that are incorrectly extinguished.

If the campfire user simply dumps water on the fire, rather than putting it out properly, the fire may re-ignite when the water evaporates. Knowing how to put out fire is as important as knowing how to start and supervise a campfire.

- Allow the fire to burn completely to ash
- Pour at least eight litres of water (or more) on the fire and drown all the embers, not just the red ones. Pour until hissing stops.



- Stir the campfire with a shovel, scraping the sticks and logs to remove any embers.

- Stir and make sure everything is wet and cold to the touch. If a campfire is properly put out, you should be able to sift the ashes with your bare hands.

- If you do not have water, use hand tools to continually mix dirt or sand until the embers are completely out. Do not just bury a fire and walk away as the fire may continue to smoulder and could catch roots on fire, potentially resulting in a wildfire.

A campfire escape may put people, wildlife and forests at risk.

If you light a campfire, you are responsible for ensuring it is safely and effectively extinguished!

Unit Crew

Unit Crews are crews of 20 fire fighters, including a crew leader and three squad bosses, with skills for fighting larger fires but they are able (on the coast) to be re-configured into small crews capable of initial attack (usually by ground).

The crew leader is a Type 3 Incident Commander or working towards this certification and members of the crew may be fallers or have other trades.

These crews are equipped to construct fire-guards by hand, remove fuel from the path of a fire, and use heavy equipment to secure the fire's perimeter. These crews often go to fires after an initial attack crew or during 'expanded attack'.

Unit crews work in difficult terrain with hot, dusty and smoky conditions, for up to 14 consecutive days. They are self-sufficient for 72 hours and can live in remote, temporary fire camps.

There are 5 unit crews in the Coastal Fire Centre.

Initial Attack Crew

Initial Attack Crews are three-person crews that respond to the initial fire call and are usually the first on the scene at a new fire.

The WMB is committed to containing 92% of unwanted wildfires at less than 4 hectares (on a rolling 5 year average). Initial Attack (IA) tries to stop the spread or potential spread of small fires within 24 hours. IA's "hit hard, hit fast" motto helps them successfully control most fires at four hectares or less.

These well-trained, physically fit and highly mobile crews may be moved rapidly throughout the province to new fires. The I/A crew must be able to be deployed by helicopter if needed, and as this is a requirement of the job, must be under 200 pounds in weight.

Once at a fire, the crew sets up water pumps, clears forest fuel from the fire path, and digs fire-guards to control or extinguish the blaze.

DEPLOYED FROM COASTAL

This is the slowest start to a fire season in Coastal in over 8 years. That being said, other provinces have not been as lucky, resulting in the deployment of BC personnel to Alberta, the Yukon and now Ontario.

Due to increasing need in Ontario over 633 personnel have now been deployed so far this year, including 69 initial attack crews, 10 unit crews, and 3 incident management teams. The balance has been comprised of a host of single resources with specialties ranging from division supervisors, radio operators, to aviation specialists. This current wave does not match the 1035 BC firefighters sent to Northern Alberta in April. This deployment brings the total number of deployed personnel from BC this season to 1,720.

Coastal Fire Centre has sent 125 personnel to date. Among those sent are: 4 unit crews, 8 initial attack crews, members of 3 incident management teams, as well as a variety of specialists. The first of these were deployed July 11, 2011 for a period of 19 days but BC personnel can be recalled at any time should the need arise.

The latest information on wildfire activity in Ontario can be found at:

<http://www.ontario.ca/forestfire>

or for information on fire activity in BC:

www.bcwildfire.ca

Today At Coastal

It is an unusual weekend in the Coastal Fire Centre as for the first time, in a long time, campfires are allowed on an August long weekend. There will, however, be patrols out making sure that campfires are being built and maintained safely. Although we have had few fire starts to date the Coastal Fire Centre is committed to eliminating (or at least limiting) the number of fires due to carelessness. We ask all of you to do your part!

The weather in the region is reaching seasonal normals but we would like to caution people that with winds picking up over the long weekend fire starts may increase. Be aware of where you are building your campfire in relation to fine fuels, space your campfire a safe distance from your tent and do not stack wood or other fuels directly adjacent to your fire. We hope all British Columbians have a safe weekend!

If you need to report a wildfire please call:


**1-800-663-5555 or
*5555 on your cell phone!**

Weather

SYNOPSIS: Rain begins over Haida Gwaii today as the leading edge of the next Pacific frontal system approaches from the northwest. Meanwhile, areas to the south are progressively warmer under the influence of a mild westerly flow that brings variable cloud to the region. The frontal system advances southward across the region tonight and Saturday producing rain over the Mid Coast and North Island, while areas to the south remain warm with sunny breaks. During the overnight hours of Saturday night, the trailing edge of the system produces scattered showers across the Sunshine Coast and Pemberton zones and isolated showers across the Mid Island and Fraser zones while the South Island likely remains dry.

OUTLOOK: Temperatures dip to their lowest of the next five days on Sunday (Saturday across the north) in a cool westerly flow that gains control over the region in the wake of the system that passes through over the next 48 hours. Temperatures gradually increase towards the end of the long weekend and into the beginning of next week as the westerly flow prevailing over the region trends gradually milder.

CONFIDENCE: Fair to good today and Saturday, becoming fair Saturday night onwards. Moderate in-flow or westerly winds redevelop each afternoon, likely peaking Saturday night or Sunday when gusts in excess of 45 km are expected close to the water.

To Date in Coastal	
Fires to Date	
Person Caused	40
Lighting Caused	0
Total Number of Fires	40
Hectares burnt	21
Number of Incidents Responded to	439
Fire Danger Rating	
	
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