

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 B.C. Wildfire Management website at bcwildfire.ca for:

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



RESPECT THE USE OF FIRE

STOVES & CAMPFIRES



A Guide to Campfires and Outdoor Stoves



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.



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.

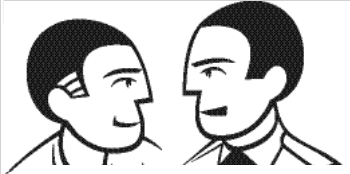
A person may light or make use of a campfire when:

- There are no other restrictions in place for doing so;
- Doing so is, and will continue to be, safe;
- The person maintains a fireguard;
- 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 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.



Build a Better Campfire

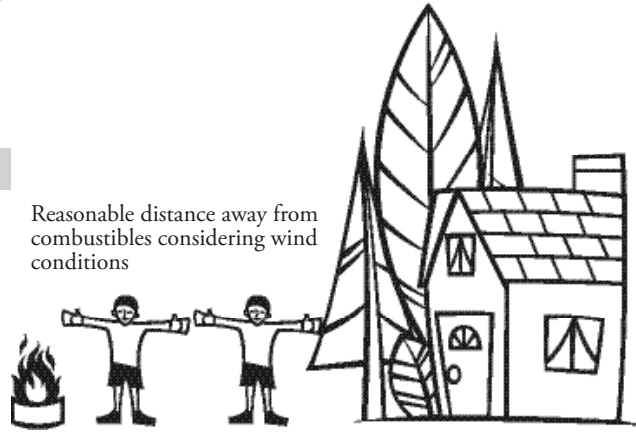
Careless use of campfires is one of the leading causes of forest fires. Wildfires threaten lives of people and wildlife, destroy timber and other forest resources and cost millions of dollars to extinguish.



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.
- Use a safe, established fire pit. Create a fuel-free zone at least one metre around your fire.
- 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 a hand tool, such as a shovel, and at least eight litres of water nearby.
- 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.

Reasonable distance away from combustibles considering wind conditions



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 reflects an 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

Southeast 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



RESPECT THE USE OF FIRE