

## Category 1 campfires to be prohibited throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre

WILLIAMS LAKE – Effective at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Pacific Daylight Time on Friday, July 12, 2024, Category 1 campfires will be prohibited throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre and the Tsilhqot'in (Xeni Gwet'in) Declared Title Area. This prohibition will remain in effect until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, November 1, 2024, or until the order is rescinded.

A Category 1 campfire is defined as any fire smaller than 0.5 metres high by 0.5 metres wide.

Camping is a long-standing tradition in this province. The Cariboo Fire Centre recognizes that members of the community enjoy having campfires, and so takes any decision to implement a campfire ban seriously. The BC Wildfire Service is constantly monitoring current and forecasted conditions and maintaining preparedness.

In addition to Category 1 campfires, Category 2, and Category 3 open fires, the prohibited activities will now be expanded to the following:

- Fireworks
- Sky lanterns
- Burn barrels or burn cages of any size or description
- Binary exploding targets
- Tiki and similar kinds of torches
- Chimineas
- Air curtain burners

This prohibition does not include the use of outdoor stoves. As per the Wildfire Regulation, an outdoor stove is a CSA-rated or ULC-rated device used outdoors for cooking, heat or ambiance that burns charcoal briquettes, liquid fuel or gaseous fuel, and has a flame height that is less than 15 cm tall. The use of a campfire apparatus that does not meet these specifications is prohibited.

As a reminder Category 2 and Category 3 open fires have been prohibited in the Cariboo Fire Centre since March 28, 2024.

Human-caused wildfires are completely preventable and divert critical resources away from naturally caused fires. Always practice safe, responsible open fire use. Anyone found in contravention of an open-burning prohibition may be issued a violation ticket for \$1,150, may be required to pay an administrative penalty of up to \$10,000 or, if convicted in court, may be fined up to \$100,000 and/or sentenced to a 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.

To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or \*5555 on a cell phone.