

Fire Restrictions for Parksville Fire Protection Area

Parksville, BC – As drought conditions continue across the province and in particular on Vancouver Island, fire restrictions have been expanded to help prevent wildfires in our region.

At this time, Category 2 and Category 3 open fires are prohibited throughout the Coastal Fire Centre's jurisdiction. This prohibition is intended to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety. The prohibition covers all BC Parks, Crown lands and private lands within the Coastal Fire Centre. A map of the affected area is available at <http://bit.ly/1e0E97a>

The prohibition includes:

- Burning of any material (piled or unpile) smaller than two metres in height and three metres in width.
- Burning of stubble or grass fires over an area less than 2,000 square metres.
- Use of fireworks, firecrackers, sky lanterns, burning barrels or burning cages of any size or description.
- Use of binary exploding targets (such as for rifle target practice).

The prohibition does not apply to campfires that are a half-metre high by a half-metre wide or smaller and does not apply to cooking stoves which use gas, propane or briquettes. Campfires must never be left unattended and must be completely extinguished before leaving the site for any length of time.

Fireworks ban

With the continuing dry conditions, the City of Parksville and the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department in conjunction with Wildfire Management Branch, wish to highlight the fireworks ban within the region. The City's Fireworks Regulation Bylaw No. 1427 includes a range of fines between \$150 and \$400 related to the possession and prohibition fireworks discharge without a permit. These restrictions come at a time when the government is urging Vancouver Island residents to curb water usage by 20% or more because of Level 3 drought conditions. Family-type fireworks are prohibited within the City of Parksville boundaries under this bylaw.

Recent fires

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department advises there have been recent fires started in bark mulch in close proximity to homes. The fires have caused damage and have had the potential to be a major fire with significant damage to the structure. Homeowners are advised to keep bark mulch away from around the foundation or edge of the building and if possible use non-combustible landscaping treatments such as rocks/gravel close to the house.

For the latest information on fire activity, conditions and prohibitions, visit the Wildfire Management Branch website at www.bcwildfire.ca. To report an open fire call 250 248-3242. **To report a fire emergency call 911.**

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For more information:

Fire Chief Doug Banks

250 248-3242