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## INDUSTRY BULLETIN

For Immediate Release  
April 5, 2017

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
BC Wildfire Service

### **Dry and windy conditions increase wildfire threats**

PRINCE GEORGE – Given current and predicted weather conditions in parts of the province, the BC Wildfire Service is encouraging all industry personnel to remain vigilant while doing any outdoor burning.

From April 1 to April 30, 2016, the BC Wildfire service responded to 79 wildfires in the Prince George Fire Centre. Many of these fires were the result of poorly planned open burning.

The BC Wildfire Service strongly recommends that anyone who conducted a Category 2 or Category 3 open burn within the last 12 months should return to the burn site to ensure that the fire was completely extinguished.

No fire prohibitions are currently in effect within the Prince George Fire Centre's jurisdiction. However, anyone wishing to light an open fire must watch for changing weather conditions and follow all burning regulations to reduce the number of preventable wildfires.

They should also take the following precautions:

- Ensure that enough resources are on hand to control the fire and prevent it from escaping.
- Do not burn during windy conditions. Weather conditions can change quickly and the wind may carry embers to other combustible material and start new fires. Wind was a key factor in heightened wildfire activity in the spring of 2016.
- Create an appropriately sized fireguard around the planned fire site by clearing away twigs, grass, leaves and other combustible material right down to the mineral soil.
- If you are planning a large burn, make sure you obtain a burn registration number ahead of time by calling 1 888 797-1717.
- Consider conducting smaller burns around the perimeter of the fire site before lighting the main fire. This will create a fuel break and help prevent the fire from spreading beyond its intended size.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Make sure that all fires are completely extinguished and the ashes are cold to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time.

A poster explaining the different categories of open burning is available online:

<http://ow.ly/znnv309kV5>

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Please pay particular attention to the Fire Danger Rating in your area, ensure that you are using the correct weather station data for the area where you're operating and adhere to shutdown formulas in accordance with the Wildfire Regulation:

[http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/11\\_38\\_2005](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/11_38_2005)

Information about Fire Danger Ratings in B.C. is available online at

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-danger>

Remember that if you see or cause a wildfire, you have an obligation to report it and take action with available resources to extinguish it, if practicable. Please ensure that you are carrying out industrial operations in accordance with the *Wildfire Act* and Wildfire Regulation.

The BC Wildfire Service appreciates the continued co-operation of the forest industry and other stakeholders, and their fire prevention and fire reporting efforts.

Anyone found in contravention of an open burning prohibition may be issued a violation ticket for \$1,150, required to pay an administrative penalty of \$10,000 or, if convicted in court, fined up to \$100,000 and/or sentenced to one 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.

This bulletin is provided for general information only and is not to be used for operational planning or decisions.

To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or \*5555 on a cellphone. For the latest information on wildfire activity, conditions and prohibitions, visit the BC Wildfire Service website: [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)

You can also follow the latest B.C. wildfire news:

- On Twitter: <http://twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo>
- On Facebook: <http://facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo>

### Contact:

Amanda Reynolds  
Fire Information Officer  
BC Wildfire Service  
Prince George Fire Centre  
250 565-6129 (office)  
250 961-4176 (cell)