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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release  
2015FLNR0095-000708  
May 20, 2015

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource  
Operations  
Wildfire Management Branch

### **Open fires to be restricted in Southeast Fire Centre**

CASTLEGAR – Effective at noon PDT on Friday, May 22, 2015, Category 2 and Category 3 open fires will be prohibited in the Southeast Fire Centre to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety.

Anyone conducting Category 2 or 3 fires anywhere in the Southeast Fire Centre must extinguish any such fires by noon on May 22, 2015. This prohibition will remain in place until the public is otherwise notified.

The Southeast Fire Centre covers the area extending from the U.S. border in the south to Mica Dam in the north and from the Okanagan Highlands and Monashee Mountains in the west to the B.C.-Alberta border in the east. It includes the Selkirk Natural Resource District and the Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District.

A map of the affected area is available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/ly73mh7>

Specifically, prohibited activities include:

- the burning of any waste, slash or other materials.
- stubble or grass fires of any size over any area.
- the use of fireworks, sky lanterns or burning barrels or cages of any size or description.
- the use of binary exploding targets (e.g., for rifle target practice).
- the use of air curtain burners (forced air burning systems).

The Southeast Fire Centre is experiencing drier-than-normal conditions and an elevated fire hazard. These prohibitions are being put in place due to current weather conditions and the long-range forecast.

This prohibition does not ban campfires that are a half-metre high by a half-metre wide or smaller, and it does not apply to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes.

This prohibition covers all BC Parks, Crown lands and private lands, but does not apply within the boundaries of a local government that has forest fire prevention bylaws and is serviced by a fire department. Please check with local authorities regarding any other restrictions before lighting any fire.

Anyone found in contravention of an open burning prohibition may be issued a ticket for \$345 or, if convicted in court, may be 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 subject to a penalty of up to \$10,000 and be ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs.

To report a wildfire or unattended campfire, call \*5555 on a cellphone or 1 800 663-5555 toll-free.

For the latest information on current wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, go to: <http://www.bcwildfire.ca>

You can also follow the latest wildfire news:

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

**Learn More:**

To learn more about open burning or to download an open burning guide, visit the Wildfire Management Branch website at: <http://bcwildfire.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>

Download a poster explaining the different types of open fires at: <http://tinyurl.com/mygmdx4>

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