



Summer 2012

Public notice: campfire safety

Careless use of campfires is one of the leading causes of wildfires. Here are some tips on how to properly enjoy a campfire this summer:

- When building a campfire, select your campsite carefully. Prepare your campfire by removing all leaves, twigs and other flammable material from the area.
- Create a firebreak by scraping down to the dirt one metre around the fire.
- Choose a proper fire pit or make a ring of rocks at least three metres from trees, shrubs, structures and debris.
- Keep your campfire a half metre wide by half metre high in size (about 19 inches by 19 inches), or smaller. Fires larger than this are currently prohibited, and if you are found in contravention you may be fined.
- **Never leave a campfire unattended**, and keep a pail of water or shovel close by at all times to extinguish it.
- Be certain your campfire is completely out before you go to bed or leave the area. Pour water on the fire and douse the site thoroughly. Stir the campfire until there are no embers and the ashes are cold to the touch.

Every summer, the Kamloops Fire Centre responds to hundreds of escaped or abandoned campfires. The fine for leaving your campfire unattended is \$345, and a person can also be held liable for fire suppression costs if their campfire causes a wildfire.

On average, the Kamloops Fire Centre responds to over 500 wildfires per year, half of which are person-caused. The public is reminded that person-caused wildfires take critical resources away from naturally occurring lightning-caused wildfires.

For more information on open fire prohibitions or current wildfire activity, please phone 1-888-3FOREST or go to www.bcwildfire.ca. To report a wildfire or unattended campfire, please call *5555 on most cellular networks, or 1-800-663-5555.



Build your fire at least three metres from trees, shrubs, or structures.



Never leave your campfire unattended.



Before you leave, add cold water and stir until ashes are cool to the touch.



CAMPFIRE REGULATIONS



Before leaving the area, always ensure your campfire is completely extinguished and ashes are cool to the touch.

To report a wildfire or unattended campfire, call *5555 on your cell phone, or toll-free to 1 800 663-5555.

More information is available at www.bcwildfire.ca



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- Campfires must NOT be larger than 0.5 metres by 0.5 metres, or about 19 inches by 19 inches
- You MUST have a shovel OR at least eight litres of water nearby to extinguish the fire;
- A firebreak must surround your fire – create one by scraping down to the dirt – one metre around the fire; and
- You MUST NEVER leave a campfire unattended.

