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Fire bans and restrictions – What’s allowed in Campbell River?

With the hot, dry season upon us, British Columbia Wildfire Service has prohibited category 2 open fires for the Coastal Fire Centre. What does this mean for Campbell River residents?

The prohibition on category 2 open fires means:

- Only recreational fires are permitted (such as camp fires) smaller than 0.5 metres wide by 0.5 metres high.
- Not permitted:
 - larger fires (which are also subject to the City’s Clean Air Bylaw)
 - fireworks, firecrackers, sky lanterns
 - burning barrels or burning cages
 - binary exploding targets (e.g. for rifle target practice)

“Some people are tempted to enjoy sky lanterns and private fireworks for Canada Day, but these restricted activities can cause serious injury and property damage,” says fire chief Ian Baikie. “When they return to earth – wherever the wind carries them – they can ignite fires, threatening homes, property, forests and wildlife. Similarly, fireworks and firecrackers can easily spark a wildfire during dry conditions.”

Baikie adds, *“Rather than light your own fireworks, come out and enjoy the community celebration, which will be big and bright, and safely ignited and extinguished.”*

Recreational fires are currently allowed in Campbell River. Here’s what you need to know:

- Recreational fires must be no larger than 24 inches (60 centimeters) in diameter.
- Recreational beach fires (still permitted within City limits) must be lit below the high tide line.
- Maintain a fireguard around the fire – a fuel free area where all flammable materials have been removed.
- Ensure you have easy access to at least eight litres of water and/or a shovel for fire control.
- Completely extinguish the fire (ashes cold to touch) before leaving the area.
- **Never leave a fire unattended.**
- CSA or ULC-rated cooking stoves and portable campfires that use gas, propane or briquettes are allowed.

Although recreational fires are currently permitted, during dry, hot conditions the Campbell River Fire Department may restrict or ban them.

Please check local and provincial fire restrictions before lighting any fire.

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