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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release  
2019FLNR0129-000881  
May 6, 2019

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

### **Category 2 open fires to be prohibited in some areas**

PRINCE GEORGE – Effective at noon on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, Category 2 open fires will be prohibited within the Prince George and Stuart Nechako forest districts in the Prince George Fire Centre, due to dry and hot conditions in the forecast.

The BC Wildfire Service is implementing this prohibition to help prevent wildfires sparked by Category 2 burns. These prohibitions will remain in place until the public is otherwise notified.

A map indicating areas within the Prince George Fire Centre affected by this prohibition is available online: <http://ow.ly/UMwb30oEI9q>

Specifically, these prohibitions apply to Category 2 fires:

- the open burning of any material (piled or unpiled) smaller than two metres high and three metres wide;
- burning barrels;
- fireworks; and
- stubble or grass fires over an area smaller than 2,000 square metres.

However, this prohibition does not apply to Category 3 fires or to campfires that are a half-metre high by a half-metre wide or smaller, or to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes. Anyone lighting a campfire must maintain a fireguard by removing flammable debris from around the campfire area and must have a hand tool or at least eight litres of water available nearby to properly extinguish the fire.

A poster explaining the different categories of open burning is available online: <http://ow.ly/zny309kV5>

The Category 2 prohibition applies to all public and private land, unless specified otherwise (e.g., in a local government bylaw). Check with local government authorities for any other restrictions before lighting any fire.

Anyone found in contravention of an open burning prohibition may be issued a ticket for \$1,150, required to pay an administrative penalty of up to \$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.

Report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation by calling 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or \*5555 on a cellphone. For the latest information on current wildfire activity, burning

restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, go to: [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)

Follow the latest wildfire news:

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

**Contact:**

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