



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
3400 – 30th Street
Vernon, BC
V1T 5E6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Christy Poirier, Manager, Communications & Grants

TELEPHONE: 250-550-3539

Remain vigilant and fire smart while enjoying the outdoors

Residents and visitors in the Vernon area are being reminded to remain vigilant and be fire smart as we enter the last long weekend of summer and another bout of hot, sunny weather.

Today (September 3), BC Wildfire Service reminded citizens across the province that fire season continues, and we must remain alert and use fire safely over the Labour Day weekend.

In Vernon, the fire danger rating is currently listed as *high*. Category 2 and 3 burning is not permitted at this time, however, campfires are allowed within City limits under the provisions of the Good Neighbour Bylaw.

“We know many people will probably choose to spend time around a campfire this weekend with family or friends who are in their small social bubble,” said Deputy Chief Scott Hemstad. “We encourage people to enjoy this last bit of the summer season, but to do it with *safety* top of mind.”

If you choose to have a small campfire, please remember:

- Only burn dry, seasoned wood
- Never leave a fire unattended
- Never light a campfire or keep it burning in windy conditions
- Be mindful of smoke’s impact on neighbours; don’t allow dense smoke or noxious odours
- Keep water or a hand tool nearby at all times when the campfire is lit
- Ensure the fire is fully doused before walking away at the end of your time outside
- Ensure ashes are cool to the touch before retiring for the night or leaving the area for any length of time

On September 2, Vernon firefighters responded to what appeared to be an abandoned campfire on an undeveloped area of private property in the northwest portion of the City. They used water backpacks and forestry hand tools to extinguish the fire, which had grown to approximately

15'x15'. No structures were involved in the incident, which served as a reminder for everyone to fully extinguish a campfire before leaving the area.

The City of Vernon would like to thank the public for helping to prevent wildfires.

To report a wildfire, call the BC Wildfire Service at **1 800 663-5555 toll-free** or ***5555** on a cellphone. To report a local fire, call **911**.