



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

Campfire ban for City of Vernon

Effective at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on **Wednesday, June 30, 2021** campfires will be prohibited within the City of Vernon.

The current hot and dry conditions in the region are expected to continue, therefore, the ban is issued to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety. The ban also coincides with a province-wide fire ban that will begin June 30. **The fire ban will remain in place until the public is otherwise notified.**

“Thank you to those who are taking efforts to FireSmart the areas around your homes and are keeping fire safe behaviors top of mind,” said Fire Chief David Lind. “Hot, dry summers in the Okanagan can present a fire risk that can be hard to appreciate until a person has experienced extreme fire behaviour.”

The following activities are prohibited within the City of Vernon and apply to all public and private lands:

- Campfires
- Discarding burning substances near combustible material
- Open air burning
- Fireworks
- Sky lanterns
- Tiki torches and similar kinds of torches
- Burn barrels or burn cages
- Chimineas
- Outdoor stoves and other portable campfire apparatuses that are not CSA approved or ULC-approved

“For those who choose to set off fireworks or release sky lanterns, please understand your choices put our community at unnecessary increased risk,” said Chief Lind. “The momentary joy of the activity will quickly fade if property is damaged or lost as a result of a poor decision. These activities are prohibited in the City and a person can receive expensive fines and charges for acting in contravention of the bylaw.”

Non-compliance with the fire ban may result in fines up to \$1,000.00 through the City of Vernon's municipal bylaws. If the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs.

The above prohibitions do not apply to CSA-rated or ULC-rated cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes, or to a portable campfire apparatus that uses briquettes, liquid or gaseous fuel, so long as the height of the flame is less than 15 centimeters. Permitted outdoor burning is only allowed within City limits between November 1 and March 31 each year.

The City of Vernon would like to thank the public for helping to prevent wildfires. To report a fire inside City limits, call **911** immediately. To report a wildfire, call the BC Wildfire Service at **1 800 663-5555 toll-free** or ***5555 on a cellphone**.

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Get informed:

Stay informed on the latest wildfire information in BC by visiting accurate and reliable information sources:

- [BC Wildfire Service](#)
- [Emergency Info BC](#)
- Download the [BC Wildfire app](#)
- BC Wildfire on Facebook: [BC Wildfire Service](#)
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