



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VFRS remind residents to play fire safe outside

On Wednesday, May 17, at approximately 5:00 am, Vernon Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) was dispatched to a report of a fire in wooded location in the 3400 Block of 39th Avenue. Upon arrival, firefighters confirmed there was a small bush fire. Firefighters extinguished the fire quickly, preventing it from spreading. The cause of the fire is unknown.

VFRS is reminding residents that the recent hot, dry weather conditions have led to increased fire risks throughout the province. In the City of Vernon, the fire danger rating is currently listed as *high*.

Vernon Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) is urging everyone to practice extreme caution while conducting outdoor activities to help prevent the start of a human-caused wildfires.

“When we are experiencing heat like we’ve seen this week, the risk of wildfire can increase,” said Fire Chief David Lind. “However, there are a number of things that can be done to help protect yourself, each other and the community.”

Campfires, outdoor maintenance, and recreation reminders

Campfires which comply with the [City of Vernon Good Neighbour and Fire Services Bylaws](#) are still permitted within the municipal boundary. However, please remember:

- Only burn dry, seasoned wood
- Never leave a fire unattended
- 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

To reduce wildfire risks, be mindful with the discarding of cigarettes and while using spark-producing machinery such as welders, mowers, chainsaws, grinders, power tools and any equipment that could strike a rock and create a spark. People doing this sort of work may be required to have fire suppression systems and equipment available, maintain a fire watch after operations are completed and comply with shutdown regulations.

People should also make sure their motorized off-road vehicles are equipped with spark arrestors, since all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorcycles may also pose a wildfire risk.

Residents are reminded that consumer fireworks and sky lanterns are not permitted within the City of Vernon boundaries. The use or storage of fireworks without a permit may result in a fine of up to \$300 and multiple fines may be issued for a single infraction.

“Current conditions in the region are expected to continue for the next several days. And, while there is precipitation in the forecast for the weekend, which may help to lower the fire danger rating in the days ahead, we need to practice fire safety all the time,” said Chief Lind. “We appreciate everyone’s help in keeping our community safe and for practicing fire safe behaviours.”

For the latest information on current wildfire activity and burning restrictions in British Columbia, visit bcwildfire.ca. To report a wildfire or open burning violation, call **1-800-663-5555** or toll-free ***5555** on a cell phone. To report a local fire or emergency, please call **911**.