



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vernon Fire Rescue urging caution when enjoying the outdoors this summer

As we get further into the summer season, the North Okanagan is experiencing sustained hot temperatures and very dry conditions, and [Environment Canada](#) is forecasting possible thunderstorms for today and tomorrow.

Already this year, fire departments across the North Okanagan have responded to multiple grass, wildland and structure fires and the fire danger rating has fluctuated between moderate and extreme at various times. Therefore, Vernon Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) is reminding residents and visitors about important things we can all do to keep each other safe, as we spend time enjoying the outdoors.

“The risk of wildfire can change quickly, particularly when we are experiencing a steady increase in temperatures like we’ve seen the past few weeks,” said Fire Chief David Lind. “It’s critical that everyone is aware of their surroundings, careful about the activities they’re doing outside, and if they see smoke or fire, to report it immediately.”

To reduce the risk of starting a wildfire, 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 and multiple fines may be issued for a single infraction.

“We need to work together to keep our community safe from fire hazards all year long, but we must be even more cautious during these hot Okanagan summers,” said Chief Lind.

To report a fire inside City limits, call 911. To report a wildfire, call **1 800 663-5555 toll-free** or dial ***5555 on a cellphone**. For the latest information on current wildfire activity across BC, visit www.bcwildfire.ca.