

The Fire Ban on Category 1 (Campfires) is Being Lifted at Noon on May 15

Effective May 15, 2026, at noon, under the authority of the BC Wildfire Service, the ban on [Category 1](#) camp fires is being lifted across the Coastal Fire Centre, including the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) with the exception of Gabriola Island. The Gabriola Fire Protection Improvement District has implemented a seasonal campfire ban which will be in place until fall.

A category 1 campfire, as defined in the [Wildfire Regulation](#), refers to any fire that is:

- No larger than 0.5 metres high by 0.5 metres wide
- Used for recreational purposes or by a First Nation for ceremonial purposes

While the ban has been lifted, the public is reminded to follow some basic campfire safety rules, including:

- Check the current and forecast weather conditions. If it's windy or wind is in the forecast, don't burn.
- Choose a location on level ground that is a safe distance from tent walls, shrubs, trees, other flammable materials and away from low hanging branches.
- Contain the fire with a non-flammable barrier and never leave it unattended.
- Have at least one firefighting hand tool such as a shovel or fire extinguisher, or 8 litres of water on hand to extinguish the fire.
- Before you leave the area or go to bed for the night, your fire must be fully extinguished, and the ashes cool to the touch.

[Category 2](#) open fires and [Category 3](#) open fires continue to be prohibited during the provincial ban. The following activities and use of equipment, materials and substances are also prohibited during the ban:

- Fireworks as defined in the *Fireworks Act*
- Binary exploding targets
- Sky Lanterns
- Wood fired hot tubs, wood fired pizza ovens and other wood fired devices unless vented through a structure that has a flue and is incorporated in a building
- Burn barrels or burn cages of any size or description
- Controlled air incinerators
- Air curtain burners
- Carbonizers

These bans apply to all public and private land and are in place until October 31, 2026, or until the order is rescinded by BC Wildfire Service to help reduce human-caused wildfires and for public safety.

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For information on wildfires, check the [BC Wildfire Map](#) or follow BC Wildfire Service on [Facebook](#). For updates on fire weather and smoke across Canada, visit [firesmoke.ca](#). To report a wildfire, call 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on a mobile phone.

To help residents access fire services-related information, the RDN has a Fire Protection and Open Burning Regulations [interactive map](#). The online tool shows residents which fire departments provide fire protection services in their area. To access the fire services map as well as other interactive RDN maps for zoning, parks and trails, utilities, active permits and more, visit [rdn.bc.ca/gis-mapping](#). Additional resources including burning bylaws, venting index information and links to Province's website for the most up-to-date information on fire bans and restrictions are available at [rdn.bc.ca/burning-in-the-rdn](#). For more information on FireSmart in the RDN, visit [rdn.bc.ca/firesmart](#) and to request a FireSmart assessment of your home, email firesmart@rdn.bc.ca.

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