

For Immediate Release
July 20, 2009
12:00

Ministry of Forests and Range
BC Forest Service
Cariboo Fire Centre

OPEN FIRE RESTRICTION IN THE CARIBOO FIRE CENTRE

WILLIAMS LAKE– Effective at noon on July 24, 2009 and until further notice, Category 1 open fire is prohibited in the 100 Mile House Forest District, Chilcotin Forest District and west of Highway 97 in the Central Cariboo Forest District within the Cariboo Fire Centre (see attached map).

A Category 1 open fire means an open fire that burns piled material no larger than one metre high and one metre wide. This Category 1 open fire ban prohibits the use of campfires.

This restriction on category 1 open fire is in addition to the Category 2 and 3 restrictions implemented on June 4th, 2009 throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre until further notice.

A Category 2 open fire means an open fire that burns piled material no larger than two metres high and three metres wide, or grass over an area less than 0.2 hectares (2000 square metres) in size.

A Category 3 open fire means an open fire that burns material in piles larger than two metres high and three metres wide, windrows, or grass over an larger than 0.2 hectares (2000 square metres) in size.

This open fire ban applies within BC Parks and to all public (Crown) and private land outside of organized areas. This fire ban does not apply within municipalities with their own burning bylaws. Please check with your local authorities before lighting a fire.

This open fire ban is in effect to protect public safety and to limit the risk of person-caused wildfires. This ban does not restrict fires in stoves using gas, propane, or briquettes. The use of burning barrels and fireworks is also prohibited throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre pursuant to Section 12(1) of the *Wildfire Act*.

The Cariboo Fire Centre covers an area of about 10.3 million hectares, stretching from Clinton (Loon Lake) to the south, north to Cottonwood River just north of Quesnel, east to the western boundary of Wells Gray Provincial Park and west to the western boundary of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park.

To report a wildfire or unattended campfire call 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on most cellular networks. For more information on open fire restrictions or for updates on current wildfire activity, visit www.bcwildfire.ca.

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Contact: Grace Pickell
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