

## **FIRE PERMITS:**

**Within the Forest Protection Area every open fire must have a valid fire permit other than campfires used for cooking or heating. Permits are available from your local Sustainable Resource Development office. Fire permits are free and are issued for a specific period of time. They may be cancelled before the expiry date if the fire hazard makes such action necessary.**

### **Where to Get Your Permit:**

To get a fire permit within the Forest Protection Area, contact your local Sustainable Resource Development office in Peace River by calling 780-624-6190. For toll free, long distance callers can dial 310-0000. If you are outside the Forest Protection Area, please contact your local municipal or county office for fire permit requirements.

For a Forest Protection Area map, please go to:

[http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/wildfires/pdf/SRD\\_map\\_sections\\_36x52.pdf](http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/wildfires/pdf/SRD_map_sections_36x52.pdf)

### **What You Need to Know:**

**In the Forest Protection Area, fire permits are required during the fire season, which starts April 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on October 31<sup>st</sup> every year. The fire season can be extended if the risk of wildfire exists.**

- Adhere strictly to the conditions stated on your fire permit. Under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act, you may be held responsible for fire suppression costs or any penalties that occur as a result of burning without a permit, or failing to comply with the conditions stated on your permit.
- A fire permit is valid only for the period of time that it is issued for.
- The fire must be set at the time and place indicated on the permit.
- Upon issuing the permit, a forest officer may specify special fire control conditions in order to ensure the safety of the burn
- Anyone who sets a fire under the authority of a permit must:
  - have the permit at the fire site
  - produce and show the permit to a forest officer upon request
  - keep the fire under control at all times
  - extinguish the fire before the expiration or upon cancellation of the permit, or obtain a renewal.

## **Safe Burning Practices:**

A fire permit is a legal document that authorizes a person to burn debris at a time specified on the permit. By obtaining a fire permit, you have indicated your intention to burn and are responsible for conducting a safe burn.

- Fires must not be lit when weather conditions are conducive to fires escaping or getting out of control. Contact your nearest Sustainable Resource Development office at 310-0000 for specific advice.
- No one may deposit, discard or leave any burning material in a place where it may ignite and result in a fire.
- Check all burning carried out in the winter for hold-over fires, prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> every year.
  - walk the burn area
  - roll the debris over and check for hot spots
  - probe the burned area to ensure that there are no hot spots
  - stir the debris
  - water down and extinguish hot spots

## **Permit Cancellations:**

The Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, for the purpose of fire control, may suspend or cancel all permits or prohibit the lighting of fires in any part of Alberta.

- The general public may be notified of suspension or cancellation of fire permits or forest closures through print, radio or television.
- Upon suspension or cancellation of any permit, the permit holder must extinguish any fire set immediately.

## **Burning On Agricultural Land:**

Those who have a fire permit to burn brush or debris after land clearing or other agricultural activities on private property must follow special regulations.

- No fire can be lit for broadcast burning of grass or stubble without first obtaining a fire permit.
- In preparation for burning, debris or windrows from land clearing must be no more than 60 metres long with an 8 metre break between each 60 metre length.
- The area being burned must be completely surrounded by a 15 metre mineral soil fireguard.
- No windrow may be closer than 25 metres to uncleared land or standing hazardous fuels.
- Windrows must be separated from other parallel windrows by at least 15 metres.
- Every fire must be controlled by a responsible person or persons that have been approved by a forest officer or fire guardian.
- Have adequate equipment at the fire site including,
  - one axe
  - two round mouth shovels
  - one water back pack and hand pail or four heavy sacks
  - one barrel of at least 200 litres of water

## **Burning Checklist:**

You can reduce the chance of a fire getting out of control by taking these easy precautions:

- Be sure your fireguards are wide enough** and free of burnable material. Watch for hotspots that start from sparks from your fire. Large fires can carry sparks over a considerable distance.
- Have tools ready at the fire site** and enough potable water to handle the size of the fire. Even when burning a small single pile you should have a shovel and water nearby.
- If you have several brush piles, light only as many as you can keep under control.** Check to see if any neighbors will be available in case you need extra help and equipment.
- Don't burn under windy, gusty conditions.** Whenever possible, plan your burn for late in the day (after 6 pm). You will still have adequate burning time, and should anything go wrong, the cooler evening conditions will help you regain control.
- When your burn is completed, speed up the final extinguishing** by dispersing any smouldering ash or accumulation of burned debris. Fires can remain dormant in large piles for long periods and usually surface when fire hazard conditions are extreme.
- Persistent hot spots, left to burn out, must be well guarded.** When the weather gets dry, any holdover fires must be put out. (Continue to check any completed burns to ensure no holdover fires are present.) Probe and stir burned areas to ensure they are out.

### **WILDFIRE INFORMATION:**

<http://srd.alberta.ca/wildfires/information/default.aspx>

### **FIRE BAN INFORMATION:**

<http://albertafirebans.ca>

**REPORT WILDFIRES**

**310-FIRE**

**Alberta**