



Dry Conditions Warrant Extra Precautions to Prevent Fires

July 22, 2021 – Following the Province of BC's declaration of a state of emergency to support a provincewide response to the ongoing wildfire situation, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, shíshálh Nation, District of Sechelt and Town of Gibsons are calling on Sunshine Coast residents and visitors to be aware of the region's unusually dry conditions and to take every step to reduce the risk of fire.

"A ban on all open fires, including campfires and chimineas, has been in effect since June 30th, said Matt Treit, Sunshine Coast Regional District Manager of Protective Services. "We ask that the public please take that prohibition seriously, and also request that anyone who operates guest accommodations let their visitors know about the ban. Additionally, we urge people who smoke to be sure cigarette butts are fully extinguished before placing them into a fire-safe receptacle."

Extra care should also be taken when using tools or equipment that could cause sparks. Under the Wildfire Act (Section 6) "a person who carries out a high-risk activity on or within 300m of forest land or grass land on or after March 1 and before November 1, unless the area is snow covered, must determine the Fire Danger Class for the location of the activity".

Guidance on identifying and conducting high-risk outdoor activities, as well as information on current fire prohibitions, and how to "FireSmart" your home, may be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention>

Currently, the fire danger rating is "high" for the Sunshine Coast. Residents are reminded that while there is an [Emergency Response and Recovery Plan](#) in place for the Sunshine Coast, they should be prepared to cope on their own for at least 7 days during an emergency. For information on personal preparedness, including a guide on how to prepare a Household Emergency Plan, please visit: [PreparedBC](#).

In the event of fire, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

For more information, please contact:

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TOWN OF GIBSONS

"Nature is our most valuable asset"