

Town of Bay Roberts Protective Services Standard Operating Policy

SUBJECT:

Fire Ban

SOP NUMBER:

1

DIVISION:

Administration

DATE ISSUED:

26 July 2022

ISSUED BY:

Director

REVISED

Purpose:

The Town of Bay Roberts has a responsibility to mitigate the risk of wildfire in our Fire Response Jurisdiction. The Town will assist the Provincial Department of Fisheries Forestry & Agriculture with publicizing and enforcing the, "*Forest Fire Regulations* under the *Forestry Act* (O.C. 96-178)"

Body:

As found in Section 4 & 5 of *Forest Fire Regulations*;

Prohibition

3. A person shall not light a fire on forest land or within 300 metres of forest land during the forest fire season unless that person lights the fire under the authority of a permit to burn issued by the minister or the minister's designate under the *Forestry Act*.

Exceptions

4. Notwithstanding section 3, a person may light a fire on forest land or within 300 metres of forest land without a permit

(a) in a prepared location in a provincial, national, municipal or private park that has facilities to contain open pit fires when permission to light those fires is granted by a park attendant who is responsible for supervision in the park during the period the park is open to the public and every park shall have fully functional back tank pumps of a type approved by the forest service each with a 20 litre tank filled with water and located at a central point in the park where open pit fires are permitted and provided that there are at least 2 pumps for every 10 prepared sites in a park;

(b) on sand, gravel, rock, mineral soil or other non-combustible materials if

(i) the fire is located at a distance of not less than one metre from any flammable material,

(ii) the space directly above the one metre area around the fire is at least 3 metres from any overhanging trees,

(iii) the fire does not exceed 0.5 metres in height and 0.5 metres in width, and

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(iv) the person has access to at least 8 litres of water or a shovel at all times.

(b.1) in an outdoor wood burning unit if

- (i) the unit is made entirely of non-combustible materials,
- (ii) the unit completely contains the fire,
- (iii) the unit is screened to prevent the escape of sparks or other burning material,
- (iv) the unit rests on legs or supports and is placed on mineral soil or non-combustible material having a surface area of not less than 1.5 square metres, and
- (v) the unit is located not less than 3.5 metres from the nearest woods, brush or other flammable material; or

Fire weather index

5. (1) Open or outdoor fires are not permitted under paragraphs 4(a), (b) and (b.1) when the fire weather index is very high or extreme.

(2) All permits to burn issued under these regulations are invalid when a high, very high or extreme fire weather index exists in the locality for which the permit has been issued.

Summary:

The Department of Protective Services will monitor the Provincial Forest Fire index throughout the Forest Fire Season. Once the index reaches, "Very High or Extreme" the Provincial Fire Ban Notice will be made public via social media and enforced for the areas under Town of Bay Roberts Jurisdiction.