

Penticton Fire Department Adopts New Open Burning Bylaw

(Penticton, BC – November 21, 2019) – Under the *Environmental Management Act*, a new Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) came into effect on September 15, 2019. In order for the Penticton Fire Department to remain consistent with this new regulation, changes to the City of Penticton Fire and Life Safety Bylaw No. 2004-57 were adopted by Council Nov 19, 2019.

“The new open burning smoke control regulation focuses on air quality risk minimization,” states Fire Prevention Officer Cpt., Mike Richards. “The objectives of the new regulation encourage compliance and reducing the impact on human health, while still supporting the agricultural industry in their operations.”

In order for the Penticton Fire Department to facilitate the new changes, all open burning permits issued prior to January 1, 2020 have been rescinded. The updated open burning permits are now available at the Penticton Fire Department, Station 201 commencing the effective date of January 1, 2020.

Some of the changes to the Open Burning Bylaw include:

- Availability of special permits for diseased vegetation, wildfire risk reduction and land clearing through new cleaner burning technologies, custom ventilation forecasting and alternative measures.
- Smoke complaints will be regulated under the Good Neighbor Bylaw 2012-5030, Part 8 Nuisance Smoke and OBSCR (both provide for penalties)
- Updated list of prohibited burning materials
- Smoke Sensitivity Zones (SSZ) defined as High, Medium and Low – Penticton is classified as a “High Sensitivity Zone”

For further information on the new Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-pollution/smoke-burning/regulations/openburningregulation>

NOTE: The changes to the COP Fire & Life Safety Bylaw apply to the Penticton Fire Protection Area only. They do not include areas of the RDOS.

For Open Burn Permit information, please contact Captain Richards at 250-490-2312 or email:

mike.richards@penticton.ca

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Contacts:

Mike Richards, Captain
Fire Prevention Officer
City of Penticton
250-490-2312

Philip Cooper
Communications Manager
City of Penticton
250-490-2583