

Residents reminded about safe fire practices ahead of open burning season

(Penticton, BC – October 14, 2021) – With the upcoming open burning season, the Penticton Fire Department is reminding residents to follow all bylaws.

Open burning will be allowed in the City after Friday, October 15, 2021. Residents must have a permit to be able to burn within City limits, including in the West Bench area.

“While open burning can be an effective method in dealing with vegetation and organic matter, the City is dedicated to maintaining and improving the Okanagan valley’s air quality,” said Captain of Prevention, Ken Barbour. “We’re encouraging residents to utilize alternatives to burning such as chipping, grinding, flail mowing and using the Campbell Mountain Landfill.”

Open burning can only occur on properties larger than 1 hectare (2.2 acres) and can only involve burning approved materials between dawn and dusk. Those issued a permit are responsible for maintaining their piles and must observe situational awareness of weather changes, particularly wind speeds.

“Many who live within the Wildland Urban Interface that are looking to FireSmart their properties may not be able to qualify for the FireSmart Open Burning Permit,” said FireSmart Coordinator, Brittany Seibert. “They may, however, qualify for help from the FireSmart Team to assist with vegetation removal and disposal.”

Burning permits can be applied for by filling out an application and emailing it to fire@penticton.ca. To view a complete list of open burning criteria and for additional information about burning permits within the City of Penticton, please visit www.penticton.ca/burningpermits.

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