



CITY OF NELSON

**MEDIA RELEASE  
NELSON FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 7, 2017

**NELSON, BC** - Due to the dry conditions and fire ratings reaching “High” to “Extreme” throughout the region, the BC Wildfire Service has placed a campfire ban on the South East region of the Province as of noon today. The campfire ban prohibits campfires, burning of waste materials, stubble or grass of any size, the use of fireworks, sky lanterns, tiki torches, chimineas, burning barrels, etc. Visit <http://www.bcwildfire.ca> for more information.

With the high risk and consequence of a wildfire in the community, the City of Nelson does not allow campfires or any of these activities at any time throughout the year. BBQs, camping stoves or similar are not prohibited.

Nelson Fire & Rescue Services Chief participated in a conference call today with the South East Fire Centre, Emergency Management BC and weather forecasters to gain a better understanding of the circumstances being faced. “Generally speaking we have seen some hot, dry weather that for the most part is expected to continue and there is the potential for lightning storms, as well as increased winds in the coming days”, says Fire Chief Len MacCharles. “While forecasts can quickly change, these circumstances give us reasons to be concerned. We all need to do our part – that includes no fires, fireworks or other prohibited activities and by reporting lightning strikes or smoke as soon as possible and to be sure to FireSmart our homes.

FireSmart is a program that informs residents and business owners how to reduce the likelihood of their homes or buildings catching fire from an approaching wildfire by eliminating or at least minimizing fuel sources on and around their properties.

“We need everyone to be vigilant in preventing fires from occurring and to take steps to reduce the potential of their home or property catching fire from falling embers if a wildfire were to occur near Nelson. Up to 90% of structures lost in a wildfire are due to embers falling from fires up to 2 km away. Taking steps to minimize fuels around your home well in advance of a wildfire is very important and following FireSmart principles is the key.”

Nelson Fire & Rescue Services has been promoting FireSmart principles for many years and this year stepped up the campaign. “We have had Nelson Fire & Rescue Service booths at the

Garden Festival and at the Wednesday Markets with FireSmart information and handouts, we have done presentations in the community, visited over a hundred homes in or near the City and helped to conduct 40 FireSmart assessments.”

Although there is still much to do, a lot of good work has been and continues to be done in our region by local government and the Province to reduce the risk and impacts of wildfire but when it comes to private property, only the owners (or renters) can take steps to make things safer. “It takes all of us to make a difference.” To set up a FireSmart awareness/assessment visit from Nelson Fire & Rescue Services, Nelson residents are invited to call (250) 352-3103 or email [firerescue@nelson.ca](mailto:firerescue@nelson.ca)

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