

WILDFIRE PREVENTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Every fire season, from April 1 to October 31, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development uses many tools to reduce human-caused wildfires.

Prevention is the best protection against loss, damage or injury from wildfire.

[What is a fire ban?](#)

During periods of high to extreme hazard, it is possible to reduce or prevent wildfires by declaring a fire ban for the endangered area.

A fire ban is a Ministerial Order issued by the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development.

This order creates a temporary law. Fire bans restrict the kind of fires the public can use, and where they can be located.

[When do I need a fire permit?](#)

Other than a campfire, any person lighting an open fire for burning debris or any other purpose must have a valid fire permit.

Permits can be obtained from the following:

- your local fire chief,
- municipal authorities,
- Sustainable Resource Development prevention officers.

Adhere strictly to the conditions stated on your fire permit. If you burn without a permit or don't meet all the conditions of your fire permit – you may be liable for fire suppression costs or penalties for damage caused by the burning.

[Campfire safety tips to remember:](#)

As you head into the outdoors this summer, campers should be vigilant and make sure their campfires are safe:

- keep a campfire small;
- always have extra water on hand;

- never leave your fire unattended;
- when you are extinguishing your campfire, soak it, and then soak it again, making sure that you stir the ashes thoroughly.

Forty per cent of all wildfires in the province are caused by humans.

Help reduce this number by preventing wildfires.

Forestry Division's wildfire prevention program is based on the 3 Es: Education, Engineering and Enforcement.

[Education](#)

Forestry Division has an annual budget for advertisements on television, radio and in newspapers, and for the production of posters and pamphlets.

The Wildfire Prevention Branch deals with all aspects of wildfire prevention and is comprised of staff from the Wildfire Management Areas, Provincial Forest Fire Centre (PFFC) and Communications.

Engineering

Forestry Division through the development of Fire Control Plans and cooperative wildfire agreements with municipal districts, counties, communities and industry work together to reduce the risk and severity of wildfires.

Forestry Division also enters into wildfire agreements with National Parks, Indian Reserves, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), provinces, federal lands and the United States.

Prescribed fire, fuel modification, landscape planning and hazard reduction burning are some of the methods for lowering the physical potential of wildfire near areas of human habitat and activity.

Enforcement

The third aspect of fire prevention is the application of legislation and law.

The Forest Service has the authority to

seek a Ministerial Order for a fire ban or forest closure.

Most often it will be a campfire ban, the restricting of fires to designated pits within recreation areas.

The Forest and Prairie Protection Act contains a number of sections, which allow for the prosecution of serious fire violations and cost recovery for Forestry Division suppression action.