

FIRE BAN

ISSUED: APRIL 15, 2020 AT 2:00 P.M.

FACT SHEET

WHERE IS THE FIRE BAN?

- The Fire Ban is in effect within the Forest Protection Area (FPA) of Alberta. Please refer to AlbertaFireBans.ca for exact locations. Cities, towns, villages and summer villages as well as Federal lands (such as National Parks) are exempt from this ban. These jurisdictions have the authority to issue their own bans and may have complementary bans in place.

WHAT IS PROHIBITED?

- All outdoor wood fires are banned, including wood campfires on public lands, wood campfires on private land and provincial campgrounds, backyard firepits and the use of BBQ charcoal briquettes. The use of fireworks and exploding targets are also prohibited.

WHAT IS ALLOWED?

- Propane/natural gas powered appliances, indoor wood fires in a facility or building and open flame CSA approved oil devices.
- Cooking, warming and lighting devices - all devices must be CSA approved and used per manufacturer's standards. An indoor wood fire in a facility or building is one that is fully contained with a chimney that has a spark arrestor. Users are still responsible for care and attendance of all devices and should reduce their use during fire restrictions and bans. Approved activities or devices will not prevent prosecution or litigation if the user or device starts a wildfire.

ARE FIRE PERMITS ALLOWED?

- All fire permits are suspended or cancelled. If the burning is industry (energy, forestry) or

agricultural related, an assessment for any permit will be made by a Forest Officer.

HOW LONG WILL THE FIRE BAN BE IN PLACE?

- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry will be monitoring conditions on a daily basis and will amend the fire ban when appropriate.

WHY IS THE FIRE BAN IN PLACE?

- This is a decision that has been made as part of our COVID-19 pandemic response, not necessarily because of a high wildfire hazard. Taking action in advance to reduce the number of human-caused wildfires will allow Alberta Wildfire to make the best possible use of resources when the availability of firefighters could be reduced because of the pandemic.

UNDER WHAT AUTHORITY WAS THE FIRE BAN PUT IN PLACE?

- The fire ban was enacted under section 21 of the Forest and Prairie Protection Act.

WHAT PENALTIES ARE IN PLACE?

- If you're found to be burning during a fire ban, you may be issued a \$600 ticket. Individuals found responsible for starting a wildfire may be charged with the cost of fighting the fire.

WHERE CAN I GET THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION?

- Online: albertafirebans.ca
- Facebook: Alberta Wildfire
- Twitter: @AlbertaWildfire
- Phone: 1-866-FYI-FIRE