

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 open fires are banned on public and private land. This includes backyard firepits, barbeques that use charcoal briquettes and campfires in campgrounds, backcountry and random camping areas. Fireworks and exploding targets are also prohibited.

WHAT IS ALLOWED?

- Propane and natural gas powered appliances such as gas or propane fire pits, stoves and barbecues. All devices must be CSA approved. Wood fires in an enclosed facility or device, which have a chimney with a spark arrestor are also permitted, but their use should be reduced.

ARE FIRE PERMITS ALLOWED?

- All fire permits are suspended or cancelled. Some allowances can be made for essential agricultural and industrial burning, but will need to be approved by a forest officer.

HOW LONG WILL THE FIRE BAN BE IN PLACE?

- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry will be monitoring conditions. The restriction will be amended 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