



# News Release

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September 20, 2018

## Open Burning Returns in the Central Okanagan October 1st

Seasonal temperatures and a low fire hazard means open burning season will begin for eligible property owners on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Burning is only allowed when air quality and venting conditions are good for those property owners obtaining a permit from their local fire authority.

Under Regional District and local fire bylaws permitted open burning may start October 1<sup>st</sup> and must be complete on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Burning permits are available from [local fire departments](#).\* Those eligible to burn within the four Central Okanagan East or Central Okanagan West electoral area fire protection areas (Ellison, Joe Rich, North Westside, Wilson's Landing) may call the Regional District at 250-469-6223 to obtain a permit. (Long Distance Collect Calls are accepted weekdays only between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, excluding holidays).

Property owners with a valid permit must call the toll-free Outdoor Burning Hotline: 1-855-262-2876 (BURN) before lighting any fire to determine if open burning is allowed on a particular day. In order for burning to occur both the Venting and Air Quality conditions must be good. This information will also be available each day after 8:00 am at [regionaldistrict.com/airquality](http://regionaldistrict.com/airquality).

Permitted property owners should reduce any smoke by following these [Best Practices for open burning](#):

- On days when conditions allow for open burning, ignite fires after 10:00 am when venting conditions are usually more favourable;
- Pruning's, branches and stumps must be dried for a minimum of two years;
- For more efficient burning make smaller piles with good air ventilation.

Under the Regional District Smoke Control Bylaw, nuisance smoke from open burning is not allowed in the City of Kelowna, the District of Lake Country, City of West Kelowna and the Central Okanagan East and West Electoral Areas or under the bylaws of the District of Peachland. Yard waste such as leaves, pine needles, grass clippings, weeds and other garden waste are not allowed to be burned.

Violators could receive a fine or be charged with the cost of putting out the fire. Residents are encouraged to report anyone illegally burning on a non-burning day by calling the Regional Fire Dispatch Center at 250-469-8577.

All Central Okanagan property owners are encouraged to use other [clean air options to dispose of their yard waste](#).

- The **bi-weekly curbside yard waste collection program** is underway through November 30<sup>th</sup> and residents are reminded to only place leaves, grass, pine needles and small pruning's inside their wheeled yard waste cart with the green lid closed.
- Residents may also use the **yard waste drop off program** at the Glenmore landfill and Westside Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre (Asquith Road in West Kelowna). Fees apply at each facility. When transporting loads for disposal, please make sure they are covered.
- **Mow-Chip Rent-it Rebate program** - Qualifying participants must have a property one hectare or greater in size with a small volume of wood for fuel reduction and/or agricultural activities that can't be served through the regular Agricultural Chipping Program. The Regional Air Quality

Program provides up to 80% of the cost of renting mow/chip equipment or services up to a \$500 maximum. Visit the Mow-Chip Rent-it program for more information. Depending on your needs, you can hire a contractor or rent your own machine. Search online under wood chipping, tree service, machine rentals, etc. to find a company that suits your needs.

- **Air Curtain Burning** uses forced air to burn wood faster and with less smoke. Contact your local Fire Department to learn more about forced air incineration options for burning agricultural or land clearing wood waste
- A number of **private companies** offer wood chipping and grinding services or rent portable chippers. Some may also pick up yard waste for disposal.

Agricultural burning is allowed under Provincial Right to Farm legislation and accounts for most of the burning permits issued in the Central Okanagan. Before starting any fire, farmers must call 1-855-262-2876 (BURN) or visit [regionaldistrict.com/airquality](http://regionaldistrict.com/airquality) to ensure burning can take place on a particular day. As an alternate disposal method, the Regional Air Quality Program is working with farmers to encourage use of the [Agricultural Chipping Program](#). The program offers a [Best Management Practices handbook](#) and DVD to help farmers. Agricultural producers who wish to participate in the chipping program should contact the Regional Air Quality Coordinator at 250-469-8408 or email [airquality@kelowna.ca](mailto:airquality@kelowna.ca) to register.

Central Okanagan residents are reminded to check with their local fire jurisdiction regarding regulations and restrictions regarding campfires, chimineas and other outdoor wood fire burning devices. Campfires are not allowed at any time within the City of Kelowna.

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Contacts:

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#### \* Fire Department Jurisdictions for Permits

- **Central Okanagan East or Central Okanagan West Electoral Areas**  
(Residents of Ellison, Joe Rich, Wilson's Landing, North Westside fire departments):
  - Call the Regional District 250-469-6223 weekdays only 8:00 am – 4:00 pm excluding holidays
    - Note: North Westside residents may call 'Collect' or avoid long distance charges by using a cellular phone.
- **City of Kelowna residents** - Kelowna Fire Department 250-469-8801
- **District of Lake Country residents** - Lake Country Fire Department 250-766-2327
- **District of Peachland residents** - Peachland Fire Rescue Service 250-767-2841
  - Weekdays only 8:00 am – 4:00 pm excluding holidays
- **City of West Kelowna residents** – West Kelowna Fire/Rescue 778-797-3200
  - All burning permits are issued from Lakeview Station 32, 2708 Olalla Road