

# WAIPAROUS FIRESMART NEWS

Fall 2017

## Understanding Fire Ban Levels

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry have a five level color coded system for putting on fire bans in the Forest Protection Area (FPA) of Alberta. (includes MD of Bighorn) The Summer Village of Waiparous currently accommodates Fire Bans under their Fire Safety Bylaw. Being surrounded by FPA, the Summer Village recognizes the five level system of the Province and posts consistently the same fire ban level as the Province.

Following is an explanation of the Provincial system and outlined in [BLUE](#) is how the Summer Village of Waiparous posts their stipulations on the Alberta Fire Ban website [www.albertafirebans.ca](http://www.albertafirebans.ca) for all lands located inside the Summer Village of Waiparous:



Provincial: Fire permits are required during fire season for any type of burning in the FPA, except campfires. Safe campfires are allowed in campgrounds and backcountry or random camping areas.

Summer Village of Waiparous: Safe fires are permitted in fire pits, outdoor portable fire receptacles and outdoor fireplaces that [hold a current Certificate of Use](#). Fire permits may be issued during winter but are only issued in extenuating circumstances and come with conditions.



Provincial: The fire hazard has increased, Fire permits may be restricted. Safe campfires are allowed in campgrounds and backcountry or random camping areas, but this level is a warning they may be restricted if the situation doesn't improve.

Summer Village of Waiparous: The fire hazard has increased. All fire permits are suspended and no fire permits will be issued. Safe fires are permitted in fire pits, outdoor portable fire receptacles and outdoor fireplaces that [hold a current Certificate of Use](#).



Provincial: Safe campfires are allowed in fire rings in campgrounds only. No campfires (or other open fires) or charcoal briquettes are allowed in backcountry or random camping areas. Gas or propane stoves/barbeques and portable propane fire pits are allowed.

Fire permits may be suspended or cancelled and no new fire permits will be issued. If the situation continues to worsen, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry will put on a fire ban

Summer Village of Waiparous: Safe fires are permitted in fire pits, outdoor fire receptacles and outdoor fireplaces that [hold a current Certificate of Use](#). All fire permits are suspended and no new fire permits will be issued.



Provincial: No campfires (or other open fires) are allowed in campgrounds or backcountry and random camping areas. This includes charcoal briquettes. Gas or propane stoves/barbeques and portable propane fire pits are allowed. All fire permits are suspended or cancelled and no new fire permits will be issued.

Summer Village of Waiparous: No open fire including wood burning or charcoal briquette fires are allowed in the Summer Village. This includes, fire pits, outdoor portable fire receptacles and outdoor fireplaces. Gas or propane stoves/barbeques and portable propane fire pits are allowed. All fire permits are suspended or cancelled and no new fire permits will be issued.



Provincial: The fire danger has reached such extreme levels that portions of the forest are closed and no access is permitted for public safety concerns.

Summer Village of Waiparous: not applicable

Effective September 15, 2017, the Summer Village of Waiparous is under a **FIRE ADVISORY**

## Q & A Why are gas or propane fueled fire pits / receptacles permitted during a fire ban?

Fire Bans state no “open fires” which consists of burning with solid fuel such as charcoal, wood logs or wood pellets. Fires fueled by liquid gas in CSA approved fire pits, receptacles are typically exempt from fire bans and restrictions as long as the device being used allows the fire to be extinguished by a valve and the height of the flame can be regulated. Gas fire pit burners do not create sparks or smoke.

## Certificate of Continued Use

- Fire Pits,
- Portable Fire Receptacles
- Outdoor Fireplaces

Current *Certificates of Continued Use* are good for one more year, **expiring on October 31, 2018**. Inspections will occur starting next summer to determine if the certificate of continued use can be extended.

If you are considering constructing a new fire pit or installing a portable fire receptacle or outdoor fireplace please make sure it conforms with the bylaw specifications in order to be certified:

### Acceptable Fire Pit:

- o a minimum of 2 metres clearance, measured from the inside fire pit edge, from all trees (including overhanging branches, shrubs, and combustible structures;
- o the base of the fire pit must be built on bare mineral soil or other non-combustible material with a minimum depth of 15 cm;
- o the fire pit opening does not exceed 1 metre in diameter or height;
- o the fire ring must be constructed of bricks, concrete blocks, heavy gauge metal, or other non-combustible materials acceptable to the Fire Guardian; and
- o the fire pit must have a non-combustible apron surrounding the fire ring a minimum width of 61 cm;

### Acceptable Fireplace:

- o a minimum of 2 metres clearance, measured from the nearest fireplace edge, is maintained from buildings, property lines or other combustible material;
- o the fireplace is constructed of materials, such as bricks or rocks, that are heat and flame resistant;
- o the fireplace is equipped with a chimney that is not less than 2.5 metres in height when measured from the base of the fire burning area;
- o the fireplace chimney and the fireplace vertical opening is equipped with a regulation screen designed to contain and reduce the hazards of airborne sparks;
- o the base of the fire burning area is not less than .31 cm above the surrounding grade;

- o the fire chamber does not exceed 1.25 metres in width, and is at least 40 cm but not more than 61 cm in depth; and
- o the fireplace must have a non-combustible apron surrounding the fireplace a minimum width of 61 cm.

Acceptable Portable Fire Receptacle:  
a Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certified or equivalent outdoor portable fire receptacle meeting the following specifications:

- o a minimum of 2 metres clearance, measured from the outside edge of the receptacle,, from all trees (including overhanging branches, shrubs, and combustible structures;
- o the base of the receptacle must be built on bare mineral soil or other non-combustible material with a minimum depth of 15 cm;
- o The receptacle must have a non-combustible apron surrounding the receptacle a minimum width of 61 cm; and
- o The receptacle must have a fine mesh grate that completely covers the opening to the fire chamber and the flue, if there is one, is used while the receptacle is in use.

## 4 easy Fall Firesmart suggestions

1. Take advantage of warm fall days to clean up leaves and needles. Don't let these combustibles accumulate on your roof, in your eaves or close to your structures. Remove and dispose of leaves and needles.



2. If you have an indoor fireplace, inspect the spark arrester and if there isn't one on the chimney consider installing one before you start your first fall warming fire. Check if the chimney needs cleaning.



3. Maintain and store garden equipment so that it is ready to use in the spring. In order to properly prune your trees in the spring, you need to have good working tools. Sharpen and oil pruning shears, pole saws, chainsaws and other garden tools.



4. Maintain short grass on your property before winter arrives. Dry tall grass is a fire risk.

