

WAIPAROUS FIRESMART NEWS

Spring 2017

Safe Use of Recreational Fires

Fire is Fire and to fully enjoy your fire pit, safety should always be a top consideration.

1. Before use, ensure you have a **VALID Certificate of Continued Use for your fire pit, outdoor fireplace or portable fire receptacle**, issued by the Summer Village of Waiparous.
2. Spring clean around your fire pit / outdoor fireplace /portable receptacle. Sweep up and haul away twigs, cones and other flammable debris that may have accumulated over the winter. Trim back any branches and shrubs that are starting to encroach within 2 metres of the fire pit / outdoor fireplace /portable receptacle (measured from inside).
3. Always have a fire extinguisher handy and make sure it is in good working condition and not close to its expiration date. Know how to use a fire extinguisher.
4. Use safety gloves when handling a hot fire pit.
5. Keep a water supply nearby when there is a fire in your fire pit/fireplace/receptacle.
6. Start your fire small and only use the recommended fire starters. NEVER use gasoline to start a fire.
7. In a wood-burning fire pit never pile on wood too high because you don't want burning pellets to spill out.
8. The fire must be constantly attended by a competent person until the fire is extinguished. Never leave a fire unattended.
9. Use screens for protection from wind and to prevent sparks from flying out. Avoid using a fire pit when it is very windy.
10. Make sure to extinguish the fire COMPLETELY once you have finished using it. Use a fire extinguisher or enough water to let the hot coals or wood soak. Continue to pour water over the fire until there is no steam.

11. Cover with a lid if you have one after you have the fire out.
12. Do not store coals or wood in bags right way; use a metal ash bucket instead.

For more information on obtaining a certificate for your fire pit, outdoor fireplace or portable fire receptacle, please contact the Village Office.

Details are available on the Village website.

2017 Prescribed (Controlled) Burn

The Prescribed Burn that was originally scheduled to occur on April 26th has been deferred to Fall of 2017. The high level of moisture that was experienced in the Waiparous area during the week leading up to the burn, left the ground too wet to undertake a good burn.

Planning is in place and when conditions are favourable in the fall, the burn will proceed. Watch for more details.

**WILDFIRE COMMUNITY
PREPAREDNESS DAY**

Saturday May 13, 2017

SAVE THE DATE!

**TOGETHER
WE ARE
PREPARED**

VILLAGE PUMP PRACTICE – Testing, maintaining pumps, hoses, suppression equipment and refilling the cistern.
Waiparous Community Services Facility – 2 Wildrose Place

**WILDFIRE COMMUNITY
PREPAREDNESS DAY 2017**

Follow FireSmart Canada #IAMFireSmart

Check Village Notice Board for Scheduled Time of Practice

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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 for all lands located inside the Summer Village of Waiparous:



NO RESTRICTION

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.



FIRE ADVISORY

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](#).



FIRE RESTRICTION

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.



FIRE BAN

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.



FOREST AREA CLOSURE

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.



WAIPAROUS FIRESMART NEWS

Winter 2017

Waiparous FireSmart Fuel Reduction Project

The Summer Village has engaged Alpine Precision Tree Services of Canmore to undertake the winter FireSmart project.

Lands included in this project are municipal lands and road right of ways as outlined in RED on the following map:



Some of the areas on the map have had a light first pass undertaken in previous years and are now receiving a second or third pass. A light first pass fuel reduction treatment is undertaken to ensure there are no blowdowns which could occur as a result of a full fuel reduction application all in one year.

Work will commence at the beginning of February and will continue throughout the month of February. Burning of the debris will occur during the project

If you have any questions please contact the Village Office at admin@waiparous.ca or 403-554-5515

FireSmart Website

Check out the Summer Village's FireSmart pages on the website Waiparous.ca

There is a lot of great information on firesmarting your property. The webpages are still under development.... Keep checking back....we are continually adding more FireSmart information.

Prescribed (Controlled) Burns

Forest fuels accumulate rapidly and pose a serious threat from wildfire. A Prescribed Burn is the most practical way to reduce dangerous accumulation of combustible fuels. Wildfires that burn in areas where fuel have been reduced by prescribed burns cause less damage and are much easier to control.

Spring is the primary season for burning, depending on snowfall, this can occur in March or early April.

Appropriate conditions include atmospheric conditions and time, which limits the scheduling of a burn to no more than one day in advance. Conditions that are checked to determine optimal burn weather include Temperature, Humidity, Chance of precipitation, Wind Speed, Wind Direction and can also take into account many other factors, depending on the location and type of the prescribed burn.

Planning and notifications occur prior to conducting the burn. A Burn Plan is written and reviewed by all parties that will be taking part in the burn to ensure it is fully understood ahead of time.

Last spring Waiparous undertook their first Prescribed Burn as an activity to reduce the risk of wildfires. All burning last year was restricted to the west side of the Summer Village. Work is underway to design a plan that focuses on a prescribed burn on some of the high "fire risk" road right of ways in the Summer Village. The FireSmart Committee is working with Forestry, MD of Bighorn, Ghost River Fire Department, 911 and other mutual aid responders to create the 2017 Burn Plan.

Watch for more details in the spring.



2016 Prescribed Burn along Forestry Trail