

INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release 2017FLNR0297-001600 Sept. 19, 2017 Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development BC Wildfire Service

Off-road vehicle prohibitions rescinded throughout B.C.

KAMLOOPS – The operation of off-road vehicles will once again be permitted on Crown land throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre, Kamloops Fire Centre and Southeast Fire Centre, effective at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017.

Cooler weather conditions and recent precipitation have reduced the flammability of fine fuels in these regions, which has significantly reduced the chance of a wildfire starting from a spark or a hot engine.

However, the BC Wildfire Service reminds the public that some area restrictions are still in effect on Crown land in the vicinity of large wildfires in the Cariboo Fire Centre, Kamloops Fire Centre and Southeast Fire Centre, to help protect public safety and allow firefighting operations to continue efficiently. The use of off-road vehicles will continue to be prohibited in the restricted areas around these wildfires.

Additionally, campfire prohibitions remain in effect throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre, Kamloops Fire Centre and Southeast Fire Centre.

More information about these area restrictions and campfire prohibitions can be found online:

- Factsheet on fire-related prohibitions and restrictions: <u>http://ow.ly/qUPm30fhyGz</u>
- BC Wildfire Service website: <u>http://www.gov.bc.ca/wildfirebans</u>

Individuals found to be in contravention of an area restriction may be issued a violation ticket that carries a fine of \$767, while individuals found to be in contravention of a campfire prohibition may be issued a ticket that carries a fine of \$1,150. If a person's activities causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may also be ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs.

To report a wildfire or open burning violation, call *5555 on a cellphone or 1 800 663-5555 toll-free.

For the latest information on current wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, visit: <u>www.bcwildfire.ca</u>

You can also follow the latest wildfire news on:

- Twitter: <u>http://twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo</u>
- Facebook: <u>http://facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo</u>

Contacts:

Kamloops Fire Centre Information BC Wildfire Service 250 554-5965 Southeast Fire Centre Information BC Wildfire Service 250 365-4014

Cariboo Fire Centre Information BC Wildfire Service 778 799-2101

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect