
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
April 21, 2021

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
& Rural Development
BC Wildfire Service

Prescribed burn planned for Houston area to reduce wildfire risk

HOUSTON—To reduce the risk of wildfire impacting the community of Houston, the BC Wildfire Service will be conducting a prescribe burn in conjunction with the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia. The prescribe burn will take place anytime between April 22, 2021 and the end of May.

The area identified for the prescribed burn is located approximately 7.5 kilometers southwest of Houston between Buck Flats Road and the Morice Forest Service Road. This area has been identified by the District of Houston as a wildfire threat to the community. The total amount of land outlined for the broadcast burning, a method where the fire carries through unpiled debris over a prescribed area, is 230 hectares sectioned off into ten separate parcels of land.

Applying prescribed fire to these areas will remove residual slash left-over after harvesting and reduce fuel load that, in the event of a wildfire, could lead to more intense fire behaviour and added difficulty and danger to suppression efforts.

The long-term goal for the project is to promote a stand conversion from coniferous trees to deciduous while reducing the availability of fire fuels. This will reduce the threat of a wildfire ignition within the area as well as assist wildland and urban fire professionals to fight a wildfire that approaches the community.

BC Wildfire Service personnel will monitor the fire at all times. Burning will only occur when conditions are appropriate to ensure safety, meet objectives and allow for adequate smoke dispersal. Smoke may be visible from Houston and surrounding areas.

About prescribed fire:

Prescribed fire is the planned and controlled application of fire to a specific land area and is one of the most ecologically appropriate and relatively efficient means for achieving planned public safety and resource management objectives – for example, enhancing habitat, preparing an area for tree planting, disease eradication, etc. These fires can take many months to plan and are managed in such a way as to minimize the chance of escape and emission of smoke while maximizing the benefits to the site.

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This prescribed fire is a resource management open fire as defined by the BC Wildfire Regulation. These fires require the completion of a burn plan, which provides an overview of the project and its objectives. As well, the burn plan identifies potential human, land and resource values that could be affected, and mitigation actions are prescribed. Burn plans also specify the resources, weather and fuel conditions for the project to be safe and successful. Specific ignition, control, mop up and patrol actions are prescribed to prevent the fire from escaping. Post-fire monitoring and actions are identified to ensure no long-term negative impacts to values and site safety.

For more information about prescribed fire, please visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/vegetation-and-fuel-management/prescribed-burning>

To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation, call 1-800-663-5555 toll-free or *5555 on a cell phone. For up-to-date information on current wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, call 1-888-3-FOREST, visit www.bcwildfire.ca or download the new BC Wildfire Service app.

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