

Fire restriction

Factsheet

ISSUED: May 2, 2024

WHERE IS THE FIRE RESTRICTION?

- The fire restriction is in place for the Northern and Central regions of Alberta including the area north of Swan Hills in the Whitecourt Forest Area and the area east of the Smoky River and north of Grande Cache in the Edson Forest Area, within the Forest Protection Area (FPA) of Alberta. Cities, towns, villages and summer villages as well as National Parks are exempt from this restriction. These jurisdictions have the authority to issue their own restrictions and may have complementary restrictions in place. Please refer to [AlbertaFireBans.ca](https://albertafirebans.ca) for exact locations.

WHAT IS PROHIBITED?

- All outdoor wood fires are banned on public lands, including backcountry and random camping. The use of fireworks and exploding targets are also prohibited.

WHAT IS ALLOWED?

- Safe wood campfires on private land and within provincial campgrounds if they are inside an engineered campfire ring.
- Backyard fire pits.
- Charcoal briquette barbecues.
- Gas and liquid powered appliances (e.g. stoves, lanterns, fire rings).
- Open flame oil devices (e.g. turkey deep fryers, tiki torches).
- Indoor wood fires (such as inside a facility, building, tent or RV) and contained within a device with a chimney and spark arrestor.
- Cooking, warming and lighting devices—all devices must be CSA approved and used per manufacturer's standards.
- Users are still responsible for care and attendance of all devices and should reduce their use during fire restrictions and bans. Approved activities or devices

will not prevent prosecution or litigation if the user or device starts a wildfire.

ARE FIRE PERMITS ALLOWED?

- All fire permits are suspended. Essential burning may be allowed, an assessment for any permit will be made by a forest officer.

HOW LONG WITH THE RESTRICTION BE IN PLACE?

- Alberta Forestry and Parks will be monitoring conditions daily and will amend the fire restriction when appropriate.

WHY IS THE FIRE RESTRICTION IN PLACE?

- The fire restriction has been put into place in response to recent hot and dry conditions and no expected precipitation in the forecast. Grass is very dry and can ignite easily and spread quickly.

UNDER WHAT AUTHORITY WAS THE FIRE RESTRICTION PUT IN PLACE?

- The fire restriction was enacted under section 21 of the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*.

WHAT PENALTIES ARE IN PLACE?

- If you're found to be burning during a fire restriction, you may be issued a \$600 ticket. Individuals found responsible for starting a wildfire may be charged with the cost of fighting the fire.

WHERE CAN I GET THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION?

- Online: albertafirebans.ca
- Facebook: Alberta Wildfire
- Twitter: @AlbertaWildfire
- Phone: 1-866-FYI-FIRE