



Town of Fort Smith News Release

Date: July 14, 2017

Fire Hazard Index: **EXTREME**

We would like to remind the public that fire danger is extreme in the Fort Smith Region this weekend.

During periods of “High” or “Extreme” Danger Ratings, common activities listed below are fire risks:

- **Smoking in the Forest or on Trails** Carelessly discarded cigarette butts and matches pose a significant threat of wildfire during dry conditions. Smokers are asked to totally refrain from smoking while in the forest or on trails.
- **Lawn Mowers and Weed Whips** These tools can cause sparks that could ignite dry grass or brush. Avoid using such tools under very dry conditions but, if you must, use extreme care, keep careful watch and have a supply of water handy.
- **Dirt Bikes and ATV's** can cause sparks and heat from friction of spinning tires that could lead to fire. These vehicles should not be used on trails or any off-road locations when the fire danger rating is “High” or “Extreme”.
- **Inside Stoves or Fireplaces** – No restrictions apply to such properly installed appliances inside a structure; but, people should not burn garbage, paper, or plastics – the risk of chimney fires increases when burning these materials.

Residents are asked to be caution when burning and do not leave open fires unattended.

Fire Update: There are no fires in the immediate area that may cause a danger to the community. Wood Buffalo National Park fire updates are posted regularly on the Town of Fort Smith website at www.fortsmith.ca and the Town of Fort Smith Facebook page.

Precautionary measures residents should take:

- Keep your vehicle at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full at all times.
- Follow guidelines in the Town's Emergency Preparedness Guide (copy on website).
- Remove debris in your yard that could provide fuel source for fires.
- Remove or properly cover woodpiles and lumber from the sides of buildings and under decks as these can ignite easily thereby spreading fire to your house.
- Cut grass and water lawn.
- Properly extinguish all cigarette butts and matches.

Other links you may wish to visit are:

NWT Transportation: [www.dot.gov.nt.ca/ live/pages/wpPages/Travel Alerts.aspx](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/Travel_Alerts.aspx)

NWT Fire Map: www.nwtfire.com/cms/

Smoke Projections: www.bcairquality.com/bluesky/

WBNP Updates: www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nt/woodbuffalo/plan/plan2/data2.aspx

Alberta Fire Maps: <http://wildfire.alberta.ca/wildfire-status/default.aspx>

Thank you for your cooperation.

For more information, please contact the Town of Fort Smith at (867) 872-8400.