

**During times of Moderate, High & Extreme Fire Danger, everyone must consider fire risk safety and economics prior to commencing work utilizing Heat, flame or spark producing tools.**

**Spark producing tools includes, but is not limited to - lawn mowers, including electric mowers with metal blades, gas powered weed-eaters, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, and the many other small motor equipment and tools that may produce sparks that may easily ignite and start a Wild-land fire.**



Balancing fire risk safety with economic viability...

# Fire Danger Ratings

<b>II (low)</b>	During periods of LOW FIRE DANGER - HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES are not restricted and a fire watch is not required following work. Use Caution while conducting any open burning.	New fires are not likely to start. If started, they spread very slowly or may go out on their own (existing fires may continue to smoulder if burning in deep, dry fuel layers).
<b>III (moderate)</b>	During periods of MODERATE FIRE DANGER - HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES must be done with CAUTION. Maintain a fire watcher after work for a minimum of one hour.	Forest fuels and grasses are drying & there is an increased risk of surface fires starting. Carry out any forest activities with caution.
<b>IV (high)</b>	<b>Early Shift Restrictions are in Effect - Do work &amp; chores before 1 Pm.</b>	Have 5 gallons of water at your work site and a fire extinguisher in case of an equipment malfunction or fuel fire.
	During periods of HIGH FIRE DANGER - HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES are restricted after 1 Pm each day. Cease operation of equipment no later than 1Pm and Maintain a fire watcher for a minimum of two hours.	Forest fuels and grasses are very dry and the fire risk is serious. New fires may start easily, burn vigorously, and challenge fire suppression efforts. Extreme caution must be used in any forest activities. Open burning and industrial activities will be restricted.
<b>V (extreme)</b>	ALL HIGH RISK & INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY MUST CEASE except with the written permission of the Fire Chief.	Permission may granted subject to the implementation of adequate precautionary measures to eliminate the risk of fire.
	<b>During Extreme Fire Risk – All high risk and industrial activities must cease.</b> In extreme conditions fires will start very easily and spread very quickly. <b>During these conditions it is simply too risky to take unnecessary chances.</b>	<b>Extremely dry forest fuels and grasses: the fire risk is very serious. New fires will start easily, spread rapidly, and challenge fire suppression efforts. General forest activities will be restricted, including burning, High Risk and Industrial activities.</b>  <b>Absolutely no outdoor fires.</b>

*For further information or any questions you may have, please contact us*

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## **Restricted Activities Applicable during High and Extreme Fire Weather Conditions**

**The following definitions apply to work allowed during High or Extreme Fire conditions.** The Wildfire Act and Forest practices Code must be referenced prior to starting any work during High or Extreme fire weather conditions.

**“High risk activity”** means each of the following: mechanical brushing, disk trenching, preparation or use of explosives, using fire- or spark- producing tools including cutting tools, using or preparing fireworks or pyrotechnics, grinding, mechanical land clearing, log forwarding other than by logging truck on a road, skidding logs, yarding logs using cable systems, using a vehicle with metal tracks, chains or studs, operating a power saw, clearing or maintaining right of ways, including grass mowing, rock drilling, tree processing including de-limbing, welding, portable wood chipping, milling, processing or manufacturing.

**Note: Spark producing tools includes lawn mowers (including electric lawnmowers with metal blades), gas weed-eaters, and other small motors that produce sparks near grass or forests.**

**“Industrial activity”** means activities that include debris piling, mechanical modification of forest debris, railway operations, utility transmission operations, mining operations, silviculture treatments as defined under section 1(1) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation of B.C. Reg. 14/2004, wood milling, processing and manufacturing, timber harvesting, road construction, road maintenance or road deactivation, yarding logs using helicopters or lighter than air vehicles, operating power saw, loading log or use of machinery on a road or a landing or in a log sort area.

**Note: Road construction and mechanical modification of forest fuels includes the use of rubber tired machines and excavators to build driveways or move branches, duff or trees within 300 meters of the forest.**

### **Short Form Interpretation of applicable Bylaws and Acts:**

**When the Fire Risk is High** – activities that may start a fire must be completed before 1:00 Pm each day. Sparks can be created from exhaust, blades hitting rocks or products made of metal, friction and other sources of heat. You must have water available and ready at your work area should a fire start. Complete your work with these tools in the mornings when moisture is highest and temperatures are cooler. An active fire watch for smoke is required in the work zone area for a duration of two hours after work is completed. Following these procedures and ensuring water is on hand will decrease the possibilities of starting a large fire.

**The reason to cease work at 1:00 p.m. is:** If a fire does start, there is a much greater chance that it can be contained prior to dark if it is reported early in the day. Fires will grow in size after dark and it is extremely dangerous and sometimes impossible to fight fires in dense smoke and darkness. Water bombers and helicopters must return to base 1 hour before sunset. If it is windy, a small fire could grow to involve most of Mayne Island during the period between sunset and dawn. We must have the time to contain fires in daylight or we may all be looking for another place to live.

**When the Fire Risk is Extreme** – All high risk and industrial activities must cease. In these conditions fires will start very easily and spread very quickly. This is an Island and there are few places to escape from a fire.

**During Extreme Fire conditions it is simply too risky to take unnecessary chances.**

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