FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 8, 2020
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OPEN BURNING PROHIBITED

Effective immediately, all opening burning within the District of Coldstream is prohibited until further notice. The Open Burning period originally scheduled to commence on April 18 is therefore cancelled. Backyard campfires for cooking purposes will still be allowed. This action is being taken in support of recent decisions made Provincially.

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation continues to evolve, the BC Centre for Disease Control has recommended the implementation of methods to help reduce excess air pollution in populated air sheds across the province. There is strong evidence that exposure to air pollution increases susceptibility to respiratory viral infections by decreasing immune function. This means that a deterioration in air quality may lead to more COVID-19 infections overall.

On March 26, 2020 the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, in collaboration with provincial public health partners, has issued opening burning restrictions for all High Smoke Sensitively Zones across the Province until April 15, 2020.

On April 7, 2020 the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development issued notice that effective noon (Pacific Time) on Thursday April 16, most open burning activities will be prohibited throughout British Columbia, although campfires will still be allowed.

Backyard campfires must be contained in a fire pit and are intended to be used for cooking only. Only seasoned, clean wood is permitted to be burned in these fires. The advantage of using dry, clean wood is that fires will burn hotter and produce less smoke, which has less impact on your neighbours. Grass, leaves, treated or painted wood and synthetic materials are not allowed to be used as fuel. Fires must be at least 5 meters from property lines, structures, standing timber and brush. While the fire is burning, there must be a competent person supervising the fire at all times and that person must have a means to extinguish the fire. Once the cooking is complete, the fire must be fully extinguished.

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