

For Albertans

New Regulations Strengthen Wildfire Protection





The Government of Alberta has completed amendments to the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* and associated regulations. These amendments will improve public safety as it relates to preventing human-caused wildfires and protecting Albertans, their communities, natural resources and infrastructure from wildfire damage. Far too many wildfires are caused by human-activity and are 100 per cent preventable.

What This Means for Albertans

- Wildfire season now starts one month earlier on March 1.
- New violation tickets have been introduced for wildfire related offenses including burning without a permit, leaving a campfire unattended and operating an off-highway vehicle when it's prohibited by a fire ban or forest closure. Tickets will be issued for easily observable, straightforward non-compliance. Ticket amounts range from \$172 to \$575 per violation.
- During times of high wildfire hazard the province may restrict the use of off-highway vehicles.
- Activities that interfere with wildfire control operations, like the use of drones near an incident, are considered a more severe offence and will result in an automatic court appearance.
- The use of fireworks or exploding targets is now restricted in the Forest Protection Area due to high hazard potential of starting a wildfire. In some instances permission may be granted by a Forest Officer.

Maximum Fine Amounts Increased

The Government of Alberta is strengthening wildfire legislation by increasing fines for the most severe wildfire-related violations. Individuals who knowingly contravene the Act by starting a wildfire will be prosecuted in the courts and can now be fined up to \$100,000 or imprisonment for up to two years. Industrial users who knowingly contravene the Act and start a wildfire can be fined up to \$1 million.

For more information:

fppa.alberta.ca