

# OPEN BURNING BYLAW

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# PROVINCIAL REGULATION

BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy adopted a revised Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation

Aims to minimize risk to air quality and human health

Aspects of City's Open Air Burning Regulation Bylaw conflict with the provincial regulation; revisions required



# REVISIONS TO BC REGULATION

Updated prohibited materials

Established smoke sensitivity zones

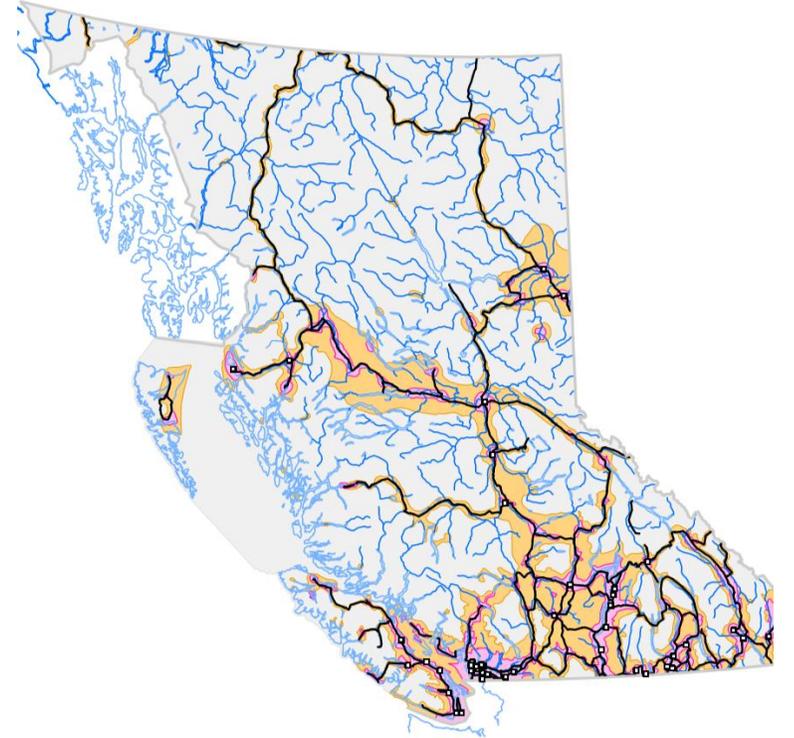
- Fraser Valley = high sensitivity

Increased mandatory setbacks

Adjusted ventilation index use

Adjusted burning days and times

Facilitated burning for community wildfire risk reduction & diseased vegetative debris



# CITY BYLAW BACKGROUND

Local governments may regulate burning

- Can't conflict with provincial regulation
- Burning considered a “normal farm practice” under the BC Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act

Current Bylaw has been in effect since 2008

Changes to burning seasons occurred in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic

# BURNING PERMITS

Spring Season (March & April)	Total Permits	On-line	In-person
Spring 2020	606	447 (74%)	159 (26%)
Spring 2019	812	541 (67%)	271 (33%)
Spring 2018	779	487 (63%)	292 (37%)
Spring 2017	833	451 (54%)	382 (46%)

Fall Season (October & November)	Total Permits	On-line	In-person
Fall 2020	590	477 (81%)	113 (19%)
Fall 2019	642	435 (68%)	207 (32%)
Fall 2018	692	458 (66%)	234 (34%)
Fall 2017	645	383 (59%)	262 (41%)

On-line permits available since 2013

Applicants must complete a quiz before receiving a permit to reinforce Bylaw requirements

# NEW OPEN BURNING BYLAW

## KEY BYLAW CHANGES

Ventilation index

Time/duration of burning

Setbacks



# VENTILATION INDEX

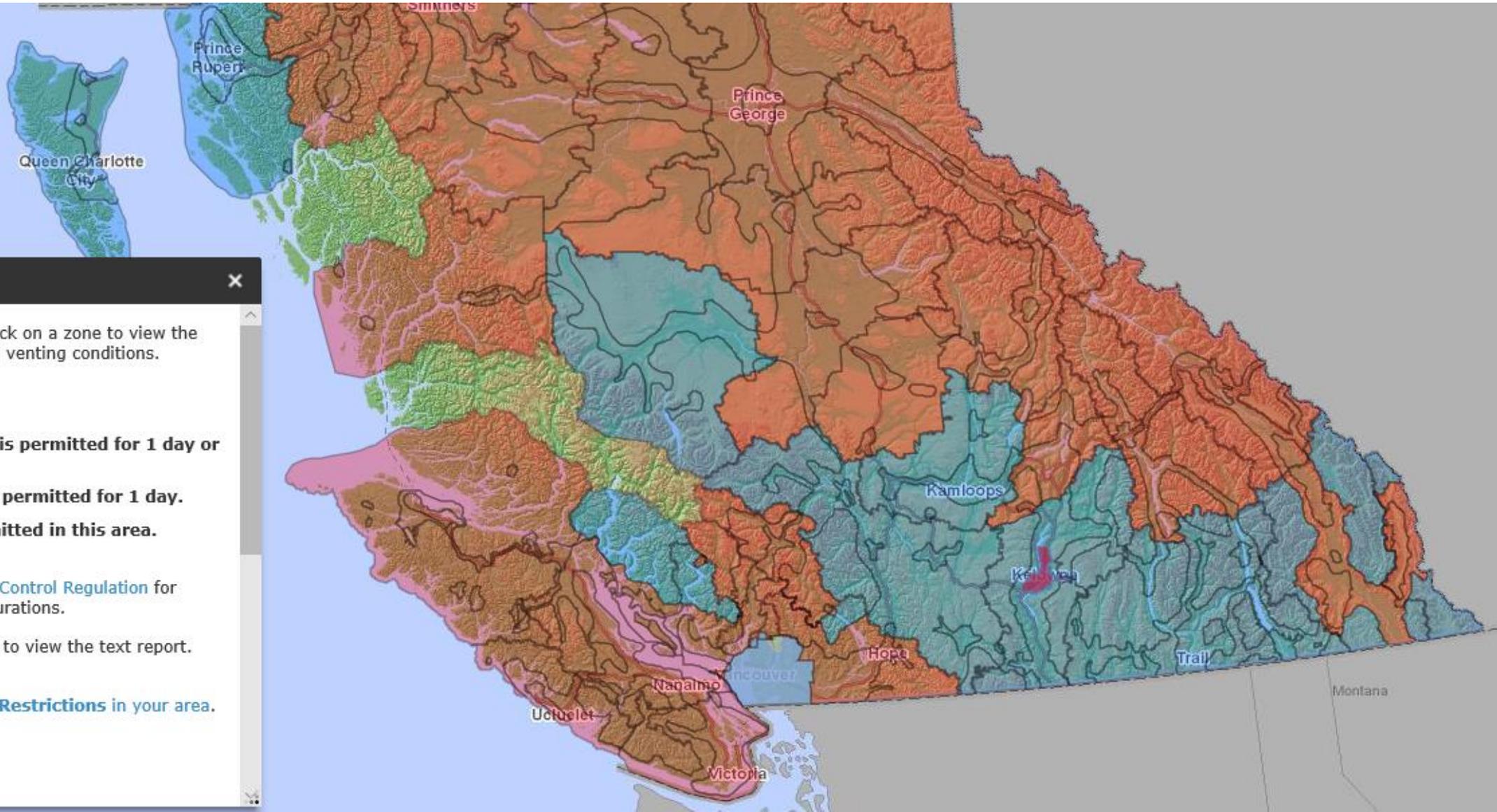
Current City Requirement	Provincial Requirement	Proposed New City Requirement
Ventilation index must be “Good” or “Fair”	Ventilation index must be “Good” for first day  Can be “Good” or “Fair” for second day of a two-day burn	Ventilation index must be “Good”

# VENTILATION INDEX DATA

Burning Window	# of "Good" Ventilation Days	# of "Fair" Ventilation Days	# of Burning Days Currently Permitted	# of Burning Days if Restricted to "Good" Days
2019 Fall	16	19	35	16
2019 Spring	32	21	53	32
2018 Fall	11	14	25	11
2018 Spring	26	19	45	26
2017 Fall	12	19	31	12
2017 Spring	24	22	46	24

43% reduction in spring burning days, 57% reduction in fall burning days

# VENTILATION INDEX INFO



## Legend and Notes

Zoom in to view an area and click on a zone to view the current burning restrictions and venting conditions.

### Legend

 YES (> 1 DAY) = **Burning is permitted for 1 day or longer.**

 YES (1-DAY) = **Burning is permitted for 1 day.**

 NO = **No burning is permitted in this area.**

Read the [Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation](#) for more information about burn durations.

Visit the [Ventilation Index](#) page to view the text report.

View the latest [Fire Bans and Restrictions](#) in your area.



Restrictions

# VENTILATION INDEX INFO

CITY OF CHILLIWACK - OPEN AIR BURNING  
ISSUED: TUESDAY FEB 02, 2021



**Burning is NOT permitted today.**

Open air burning is reduced to 2 separate seasons per year:

- March & April
- October & November

Visit [chilliwack.com/burning](http://chilliwack.com/burning)

# TIME/DURATION

Current City Requirement	Provincial Requirement	Proposed New City Requirement
No starting or kindling fire between 10pm and 7am March/April and Oct/Nov	No burning after 4pm or two hours before sunset, whichever is later  No burning to start earlier than one hour after sunrise  Max. 2 consecutive days  Max. 12 days/year and 6 days/month	No starting or kindling fire between 5pm and 7am March/April and Oct/Nov

# BURNING SEASONS

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Winter:

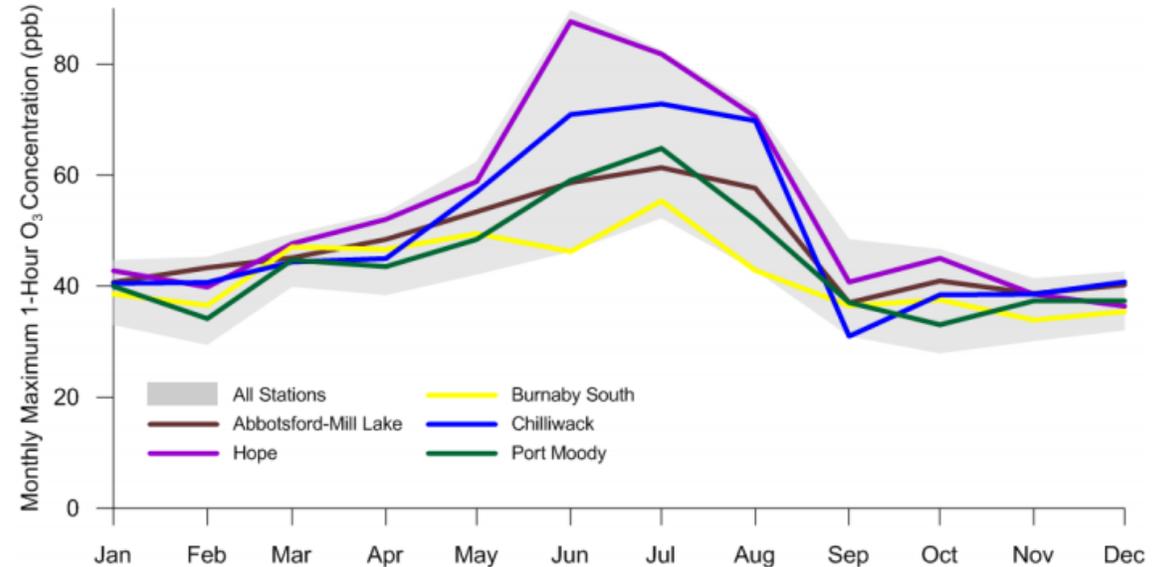
- Ventilation index worsens
- More moisture = more smoke

### Summer:

- Air quality degrades
- Dry conditions = increased fire risk

### Spring and Fall:

- Rainfall, fire risk, ventilation index and air quality conditions are more moderate



# SETBACKS

Current City Requirement	Provincial Requirement	Proposed New City Requirement
15m from buildings, fences, hedges	<b>Default setbacks:</b> 500m from neighbouring residences or businesses	15m from fences, hedges or power poles/lines or on-site buildings
500m from hospital, schools or care facilities	1000m from hospitals, schools or care facilities	100m from neighbouring residences or businesses
10m from streams	<b>Reduced setbacks with provisions:</b>	500m from hospital, schools or care facilities
30m from public road	100m from neighbouring residences or businesses	30m from streams or public roads
10m from power poles/lines	500m from hospitals, schools or care facilities	

# OTHER BYLAW COMPONENTS

Allows burning of seasoned vegetative debris that originates on the same agricultural or rural parcel

Burning permit required for each burning season (\$35, up from \$25)

May only burn one pile at a time

Max. pile size 2m high x 3m in diameter (up from 1.5m x 2m)

Expanded list of materials prohibited from burning



# OTHER BYLAW COMPONENTS

Prohibits burning materials that can produce heavy or toxic smoke

Requires measures to reduce smoke:

- Minimize soil content
- Maximize air flow
- Burn only seasoned vegetation

Prohibits generating smoke that can impact:

- Urban growth boundary
- Airports/roads

Requires fire risk reduction measures for areas with peat soils



# BC REG. VS CITY BYLAW

## ASPECTS NOT ADDRESSED

Max. # of days to burn (6/month and 12/year); max. 2 consecutive days

Notifications prior to burning for reduced setbacks

Must exhaust every reasonable alternative to burning

Specific definition of “seasoned” vegetation:

- <30% moisture, piled for 4 months, or dead timber

Different requirements based on diameter:

- <3cm vs 3cm-<10cm vs 10cm +

# PENALTIES

BNEB & MTI ticket updates proposed:

- BNEB fines - \$250-\$500
- MTI fines - \$500-\$1,000

Larger fines for more serious infractions (e.g. burning without a permit, burning prohibited materials, producing excessive smoke)

Fire Department typically starts with education and reserves fines for repeat offences

# EDUCATION / OUTREACH

Notifications of the Bylaw changes will be coordinated with Communications Department. At a minimum:

- Social media
- City's website
- Newspaper
- Burning permit application process

# QUESTIONS?

