



## **Nelson Fire & Rescue Services**

919 Ward Street, Nelson, British Columbia V1L 1T5

Telephone: (250) 352-3103 Fax: (250) 352-6578

- \*Free yard waste drop-off for the month of May at Grohman Transfer Station*
- \*Burning Period Approved for City of Nelson NOW until – May 15<sup>th</sup>*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – APRIL 8, 2022**

Nelson Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management, Len MacCharles is asking all residents to do their part to reduce the risk of their homes catching fire during the upcoming wildfire season, by following some simple FireSmart principles. Chief MacCharles says, “As we have seen over the past few years, wildfires can happen anywhere in the province and although Nelson has been very fortunate, a wildfire can, and at some point, most likely will directly impact our city.” The Chief points out most structure fires caused by wildfires are due to hot embers traveling two kilometers or more from a nearby wildfire landing on and around buildings, igniting grasses, dry leaves and woody materials next to homes and in gutters causing fire growth that can easily spread to your home. Hot embers from wildfires travel on wind currents and can drop anywhere throughout our community, not just along the edge of the city where neighbourhoods meet the forest.”

Don't wait until wildfire season is here! Now and over the next few months is the time to act. Chief MacCharles says, “It's time for everyone with a yard, whether they own or rent the property to keep the 1.5 meters (5 ft) surrounding their home clear of **anything** that can catch fire and to remove dry leaves etc. from your gutters.” He strongly recommends removing decorative cedars, junipers, pines and tall grasses near your home as they ignite easily and will quickly spread fire to your house. Go to [www.firesmartbc.ca](http://www.firesmartbc.ca) or [www.nelson.ca](http://www.nelson.ca) to learn more about other important things you can do to reduce the risk of losing your home due to wildfire – and don't forget to make sure you have adequate homeowners or renters fire insurance.

The best way for residents to rid their properties of yard and garden waste is to take them to the Grohman Narrows Transfer Station. Thanks to the RDCK, there is **NO CHARGE for the entire month of May and October** for yard and garden waste. For more information regarding charges and what is acceptable please go to [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca)

Alternatively, a burn period has been approved (subject to weather and local fire conditions) beginning Thursday April 1 to Sunday May 15, 2022 (inclusive). Permits are required for all those wanting to participate. This extended burn period is for the purpose of reducing non-compostable woody debris, which is clean, dry, unstained/untreated woody materials resulting from residential yard clean up. This does not include the burning of construction materials or vegetative matter that can be easily composted such as leaves, grass clippings, vegetable stalks or similar.

Permits must be acquired in person, at Nelson Fire & Rescue Services, located at 919 Ward Street, and payment for the \$10 fee can be paid by cash or cheque at the time of issuance and those burning must **provide proof of fire insurance for the property** where the burning will take place.

Residents are required to inform Nelson Fire & Rescue Services on the days they intend to burn and follow Ministry of Environment's Venting Index guidelines <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting/venting.html> (or call 1-888-281-2992) and only burn on days when venting is listed as "Good" on the day of burning to minimize the accumulation of smoke in the air. Contravention of the Bylaw may result in suspension or revocation of the permit and/or a fine or fee for service.

For more information or to see the complete Fire Regulation and Prevention Bylaw No. 3268 please visit [www.nelson.ca](http://www.nelson.ca) or call (250) 352-3103.

**For more information please contact:**

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919 Ward Street Nelson, BC



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