

City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information, contact: Fire Chief Howard Exner at 604-463-5880 <u>hexner@mapleridge.ca</u>

Maple Ridge Fire Department Enacts Fire Ban

Maple Ridge, BC: With the dry and warm weather we are experiencing, the weather forecast into the next two weeks and the Forest Fire Weather index moving towards Extreme Forest Fire Danger Rating, effective immediately the Maple Ridge Fire Department is invoking a fire ban in all areas of Maple Ridge.

- All camping/recreational fires regularly enjoyed in the open to burning area of Maple Ridge are now prohibited. The use of hibachis or other briquette BBQs and ULC/CSA listed propane BBQs and fire pits are permitted at this time.
- The discharge of all fireworks, sky lanterns or pyrotechnics is also prohibited during this campfire ban.
- Should the hot and dry weather conditions continue, further restrictions may have to be instituted.
- The Fire Department takes this threat very seriously and therefore will be ticketing those who choose to have prohibited fires, with fines ranging between \$500 and \$1,000.
- This ban will be in effect until the forest fire danger ratings return to a safe level.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our community safe.

If you require any additional information please contact Fire Chief Howard Exner at hexner@mapleridge.ca or by calling 604-463-5880.