

May 28, 2019

Fire department urges extra caution as dry conditions persist

With hot, dry conditions and no rain in the forecast, Campbell River fire chief Thomas Doherty is issuing an urgent reminder for everyone to be extra vigilant with recreational fires and any smoking devices to prevent wildfires.

“For now, recreational fires are still permitted, but we’re closely monitoring conditions. Fire bans could be put in place if the weather continues to be hot and dry, which places our area in a high risk of wildfire,” Doherty says. “This Sunday’s brush fire right in town at Homewood and 9th Avenue and the fire along Argonaut Road late last week are clear reminders of how dry conditions are right now.”

People can do their part to prevent damage by checking local and provincial fire restrictions before lighting any fire – and by fully extinguishing camping and beach fires. Already this season, the fire department has been called to attend beach fires left to smoulder.

The fire department was able to get to the scene of Sunday’s brush fire quickly and extinguish it before it could spread to a nearby home. The Argonaut Road fire burned 3.5 hectares (8.6 acres) and was apparently caused by a tree falling on a power line, causing the line to fall to the ground and ignite the dry surroundings, including standing trees.

“For the best chances of keeping a fire contained, it’s essential that the fire department is called right away. In the case of fires farther out from the community, these have more time to spread because of the longer time required to reach remote areas,” Doherty says. “The Argonaut Road fire began Thursday evening, and crews were still patrolling the area and only confirmed the fire as out yesterday evening.”

For more information on fire safety visit www.campbellriver.ca/fire. Find provincial fire ban information here <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>

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