

**SECTION: Special Areas Parks****14-05****SUBJECT: Campfires/Fireworks – Fire Ban Levels****POLICY NAME: Campfires/Fireworks in SAB Campgrounds & Parks****POLICY DEPT(S): Parks/ Emergency Services****EFFECTIVE DATE: May 13, 2025****LAST AMENDED: May 2013****BOARD MOTION: 08-12-2025****1. PURPOSE:**

While supporting outdoor activity and tourism, the Special Areas Board (SAB) is committed to managing and reducing wildfire risk in a way that is responsive, flexible and clear. The statements below and Appendix A are provided for employees, residents, and visitors to better understand what fire activity is permissible within the Tiered Fire-Ban System.

**2. DEFINITIONS:**

“Charcoal briquettes” shall mean a fuel source for cooking, grilling and heating;

“Controlled Burn Notification” shall mean completion of the notification form by the person intending on a controlled burn through the Special Areas Board Website or by contacting the local District Office;

“Cook-stove” shall mean fires used for cooking, grilling and heating, commonly housed in camp kitchen structures;

“Fireworks” shall mean pyrotechnic devices designed to burn and explode, including consumer fireworks, display fireworks, and special effect pyrotechnics. This definition includes firecrackers.

“Open-flame oil devices” shall mean any device that uses an oil-based fuel to produce a visible flame that is not enclosed or shielded;

“Propane/ natural gas-powered devices” shall mean any appliances commonly used for cooking, grilling and heating fueled by propane or natural gas;

“Regional Fire Chief” shall mean a person named or appointed as Regional Fire Chief for the Special Areas.

“Safe Campfire” shall mean wood campfires within a metal, or brick fire ring located on rock, gravel, sand, or another non-combustible surface that extends at least one metre around the fire;

“Special Areas” shall mean the Special Areas No. 2, 3, & 4;

“Supervised SAB Campgrounds” shall mean Special Areas campgrounds and parks commonly known as Blood Indian Park, Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park, and Prairie Oasis Park;

“Tiered Fire Ban System” shall mean temporary measures brought in according to conditions. As fire danger levels rise or fall these restrictions can be adjusted;

“Un-supervised SAB Campgrounds” shall mean Special Areas campgrounds, parks, random camping areas, or rest areas; commonly known as Bindloss, Blood Indian Overflow Camping Area, Buffalo, Carolside, Cereal, Dorothy, Esther, Hemaruka, Jenner, Little Fish Lake, Naco, New Brigden, and the Memorial Hwy 9 & 36 Rest Area.

### 3. POLICY STATEMENT:

For the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property from injury or destruction by fire, the SAB is committed to using the Tiered Fire-Ban System to declare the associated fire ban level.

#### Fire Activity Restrictions

Campfire and firework activities will be restricted based upon the fire ban level declared by the Board. The table shown in Appendix A summarizes allowed activities under each fire ban level.

#### **FIRE BAN LEVELS**

##### **NO RESTRICTION**



Safe campfires are allowed in campgrounds, parks, random camping areas, or rest areas.

\*To deploy fireworks, users must complete a Controlled Burn Notification through the Special Areas Board website or by contacting the local District Office.

Signs will be posted at all locations communicating the current fire ban level and all ensuing restrictions.

##### **FIRE ADVISORY**



Safe campfires are allowed in campgrounds, parks, random camping areas, or rest areas but may be restricted if conditions do not improve.

\*To deploy fireworks, users must complete a Controlled Burn Notification through the Special Areas Board website or by contacting the local District Office.

Signs will be posted at all locations communicating the current fire ban level and all ensuing restrictions.

##### **FIRE RESTRICTION**



Supervised SAB campgrounds: include campgrounds and parks commonly known as Blood Indian Park, Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park, and Prairie Oasis Park.

- Charcoal briquettes, cook-stove fires, and safe campfires will ONLY be allowed in designated fire pits and kitchen structures.
- Open-flame oil devices, propane / natural gas-powered devices and portable propane fire pits are allowed.

\*To deploy fireworks, users must complete a Controlled Burn Notification through the Special Areas Board website or by contacting the local District Office.

Unsupervised SAB campgrounds: includes campgrounds, parks, random camping areas, or rest areas; commonly known as Bindloss, Blood Indian Overflow Camping Area, Buffalo, Carolside, Cereal, Dorothy, Esther, Hemaruka, Jenner, Little Fish Lake, Naco, New Brigden, and the Memorial Hwy 9 & 36 Rest Area.

- NO charcoal briquettes, cook-stove fires (commonly housed in camp kitchen structures), fireworks, open-flame oil devices, or safe campfires.
- Propane / natural gas-powered devices and portable propane fire pits are allowed.

Signs will be posted at all locations communicating the current fire ban level and all ensuing restrictions.

### **TOTAL FIRE BAN**



NO charcoal briquettes, cook-stove fires, fireworks, or open-flame oil devices allowed in any campgrounds, parks, random camping areas or rest areas.

Propane / natural gas-powered devices and portable propane fire pits are allowed.

Signs will be posted at all locations communicating the current fire ban level and all ensuing restrictions.

\*To deploy fireworks, users must:

- *Comply with the National Fire Code Alberta Edition 2019, Division B, Section 5.1.1.3, all users shall follow the handling and discharge of fireworks, NRCan 2010, "Display Fireworks Manual."*
- *Complete a Controlled Burn Notification through the Special Areas Board website or by contacting the local District Office, as per Policy 16-02.*
- *Fireworks are only permitted to be used in designated areas after approval has been obtained from the Regional Special Areas Fire Chief or designate. Approved fireworks locations include the beach area of Prairie Oasis Park and the beach area of Blood Indian Park.*

*This policy does not take precedence over the Alberta Fire Code 2023.*

**4. SCOPE:**

This policy applies to all private and public owned land within the Special Areas boundaries, including but not limited to SAB owned and/or operated campgrounds, parks, random camping areas, and rest areas.

- See Policy 16-01 – Fire Services
- See Policy 16-02 – Fire Ban Levels

**5. APPROVED BY CHAIR:**  
*Shaune Kovitch, Chair  
Special Areas Board*

**APPENDIX A – Tiered Fire Ban System**

Approved Fire Activities in SAB Campgrounds (Supervised/ Un-supervised Sites)						
Activity	Fire Advisory		Fire Restriction		Total Fire Ban	
	*Supervised	**Un-supervised	Supervised	Un-supervised	Supervised	Un-supervised
Charcoal briquette <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Cook-stove fires <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Exploding Targets <sup>3</sup>	No	No	No	No	No	
Fireworks <sup>4</sup>	Approval from SAB RFC or RDFC through the Controlled Burn Notification system.			No	No	
Open-flame oil devices <sup>5</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Propane / natural gas-powered devices <sup>6</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Safe campfires <sup>7</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	

*\*Supervised: Special Areas campgrounds and parks commonly known as Blood Indian Park, Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park, and Prairie Oasis Park.*

*\*\*Un-supervised: Special Areas campgrounds, parks, random camping areas, or rest areas; commonly known as Bindloss, Blood Indian Overflow Camping Area, Buffalo, Carolside, Cereal, Dorothy, Esther, Hemaruka, Jenner, Little Fish Lake, Naco, New Brigden, and the Memorial Hwy 9 & 36 Rest Area.*

1. Charcoal briquettes are a fuel source for cooking, grilling and heating.
2. Cook-stove fires are used for cooking, grilling and heating, commonly housed in camp kitchen structures.
3. Exploding targets are devices that react and potentially explode when struck.
4. Fireworks shall mean pyrotechnic devices designed to burn and explode, including consumer fireworks, display fireworks, and special effect pyrotechnics. This definition includes firecrackers.
5. Open-flame oil devices are any device that uses an oil-based fuel to produce a visible flame that is not enclosed or shielded.
6. Propane/ natural gas-powered devices are appliances commonly used for cooking, grilling and heating fueled by propane or natural gas.
7. Safe campfires shall mean wood campfires within a metal, or brick fire ring. They are required to:
  - a. be on rock, gravel, sand, or another non-combustible surfaces that extend at least one metre around the fire;
  - b. have a responsible person in attendance to keep fire under control at all times and extinguish before leaving; and
  - c. have on hand enough water to extinguish the fire.