



Crop Residue Burning Process for Peace Region Grain & Oilseed Producers

Most open burning activities are now prohibited throughout B.C.. The BC Wildfire Service is working with agriculture producers in the B.C. Peace to accommodate burning of residual crops to prepare for 2020 seeding. A significant amount of grain crops in the Peace region were not harvested in the fall of 2019 due to excess field moisture and snow. These crops need to be removed to prepare for seeding.

Note that exemptions from open burning prohibitions are only open to Peace Region grain and oilseed producers who are producing a food crop for 2020 and who follow the process outlined below.

Burning of crops should be the last option for any agriculture producer, and other practical alternatives should be considered first.

1. If salvage value exists, combining the crop will be the first option.
2. If salvage potential is low, and equipment and time allow, discing plant fiber into the soil and allowing for the breakdown of residual material can create an appropriate seed bed.
3. The final option is open burning to remove all stubble and allow for an ideal seed bed.

If the first two options are not appropriate for your farm, you can begin the process of obtaining an exemption letter **and** burn registration number from the BC Wildfire Service. **Both are mandatory before burning can commence!**

1. Contact Doug J. Smith, Senior Wildfire Officer Prevention, BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) at 778 693-2879 or email doug.j.smith@gov.bc.ca to request an exemption.
 - In the request, provide the legal description of the lands to be burned, the legal name of the person or company, and your contact information. The BCWS has committed to respond promptly to voicemails and emails.**Note:** No burning can occur until you have received this exemption letter. You will be responsible for abiding by any and all conditions outlined in the exemption letter.
2. After you have received your exemption letter from BCWS, obtain an open burn registration number by calling 1 888 797-1717
 - You will be provided with an open burning registration number immediately. The number will be valid for two weeks. If you need to extend your burning time, you must call back in two weeks and renew the registration number
3. On each day you plan to burn, you must call the BC Wildfire Service to notify them of your intent to burn. The number to call will be indicated in your exemption letter. Confirmation of daily burning allows for joint awareness of weather conditions, venting indexes and other considerations for successful open burning.

Note:

If you are served by a municipal fire department (you are within the Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, Taylor, Chetwynd, Hudson Hope, Tumbler Ridge or Fort St. John fire protection areas):

- These departments have burning bylaws in place that apply to their municipal fire protection areas **at all times**. Before you burn, find out if:
 - o your fire department requires you to have a burn permit; and
 - o if burning prohibitions are in place as determined by your local fire department.

If you are in a rural fire protection area, please contact the applicable fire department before you burn. You must follow all requirements of the BC Wildfire Service listed above and it is recommended that you follow any recommendations of your local fire department as well. They can provide you with important tips and advice on how to safely conduct a burn on your property. It will also help for them to know where burning is taking place within their district in the event that you need assistance.