



2011.09.30

# Wildfire Newsletter

## CARIBOO FIRE CENTRE

As of September 30, 2011, the Cariboo Fire Centre has responded to 48 wildfires. The total number of hectares burned so far this season is 130. This is well below the 10 year average of 290 wildfires burning a total of 39,000 hectares.

The Interlakes Waste Transfer Station fire that was sparked in the afternoon on Tuesday, September 27 was contained at just over one hectare and is now in the patrol stage. That fire was determined to have been human-caused.

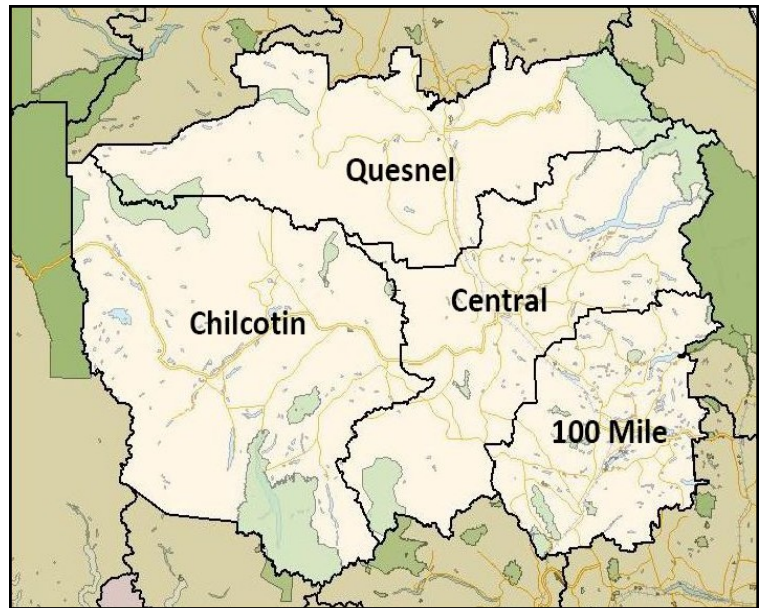
The Cariboo Fire Centre has experienced the slowest season on record in the last decade. But Wildfire Management Branch staff continue to monitor the weather closely and have resources available to respond to any incidents that may occur.

Given the conditions in the Cariboo this season, we were able to assist other provinces and states with wildfire suppression. As well, crews and staff kept busy with fuel management projects, prevention campaigns and community outreach.

The restriction on open burning has now been lifted. See page two for details.

For the latest information on fire activity, bans and restrictions, visit the Wildfire Management Branch website at [bcwildfire.ca](http://bcwildfire.ca).

### Cariboo Fire Centre Boundaries



Fire Zone	# of Fires	# of Hectares
Quesnel	6	11
Central	15	110
100 Mile	19	7
Chilcotin	8	3

## Open Burning Restriction Lifted

Effective at 12 noon on Friday, Sept. 30, 2011, all open fires will be permitted across the Cariboo Fire Centre, due to a decreased risk of wildfires.

Within the Cariboo Fire Centre region, the public is now permitted to:

- Burn waste, slash or other material.
- Burn stubble or grass.
- Use fireworks or burning barrels of any size or description.

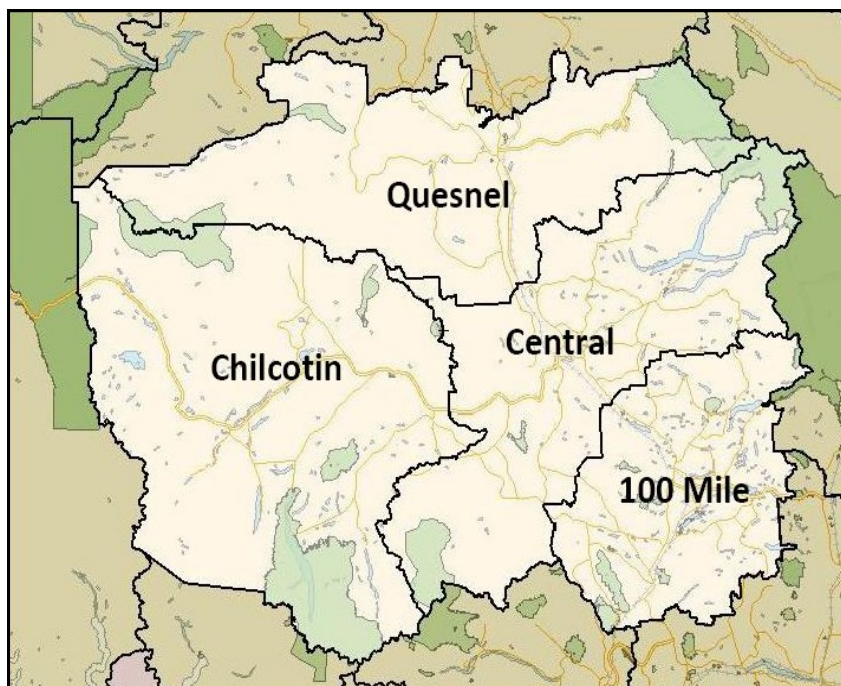
Anyone considering Category 2 or 3 fires must comply with the Ministry of Environment's Waste Management Act and Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation. For more information, go to: [www.bcairquality.ca](http://www.bcairquality.ca)

Category 3 fires require a burn registration number, which may be obtained by calling 1 888 797-1717. Individuals who fail to meet these requirements may be subject to fines.

The Cariboo Fire Centre region stretches from Loon Lake to just north of Quesnel at the Cottonwood River. From east to west, the boundaries stretch from the western edge of Wells Gray Provincial Park to the eastern boundary of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park.

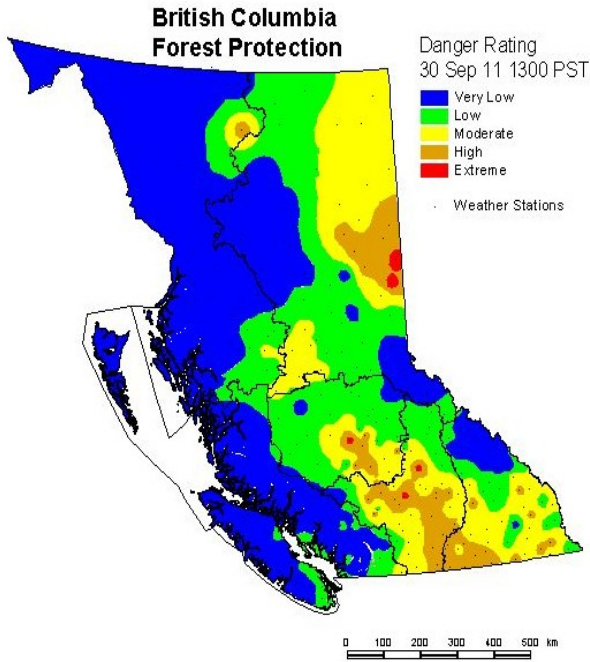
The rescinding of the restrictions applies to all BC Parks, Crown and private lands, but does not apply within the boundaries of local governments that have forest fire prevention bylaws and are serviced by a fire department. Please check with civic authorities for any restrictions before lighting a fire.

\* See page five for more information around open burning.

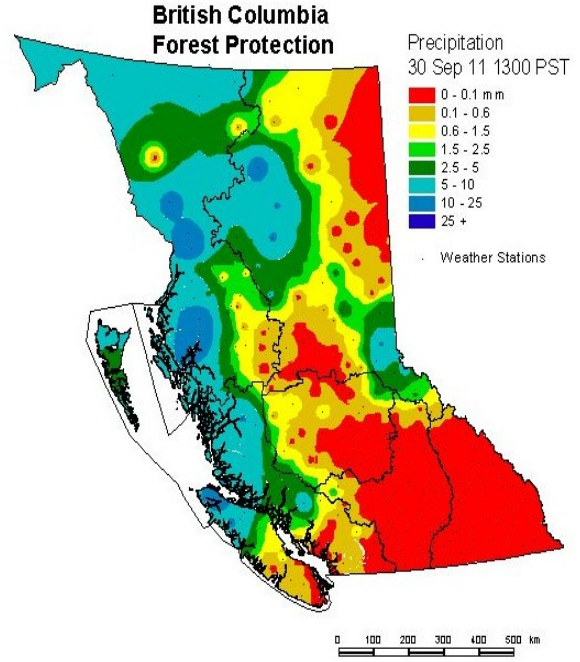


**Cariboo Fire Centre Boundaries**

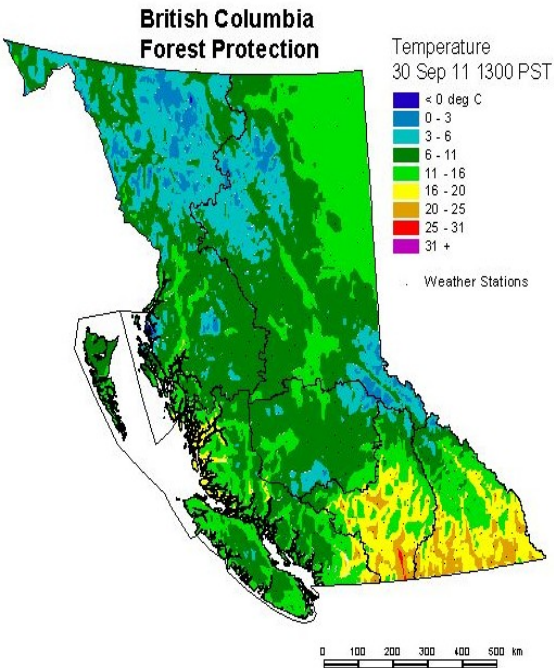
## Fire Danger Rating



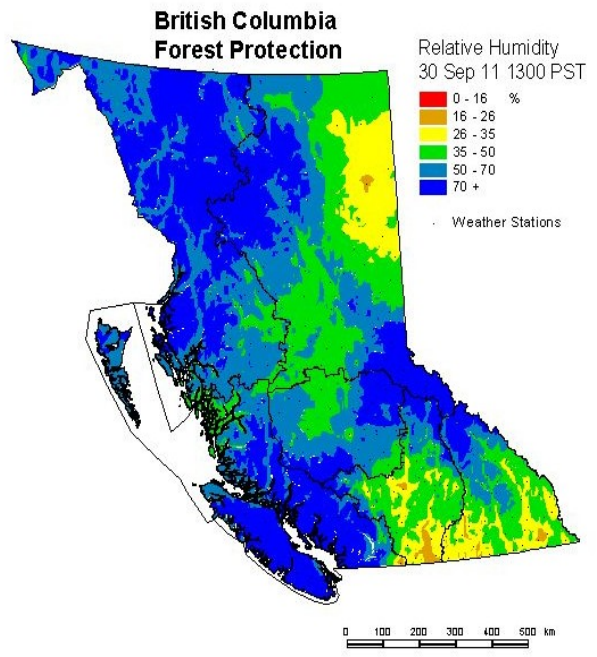
## Precipitation



## Temperature



## Relative Humidity



These maps are current for September 30, 2011

For the most recent weather maps, please see [www.bcwildfire.ca/weather](http://www.bcwildfire.ca/weather)

These graphs are for informational purposes only and should not be used to base operational decisions

## Cariboo Fire Centre Statistics

### Since April 1, 2011:

Fires to date: 48  
Hectares burned: 130  
Person-caused fires: 41  
Lightning-caused fires: 7

### 2010 at this time:

Fires to date: 312  
Hectares burned: 172,126  
Person-caused fires: 74  
Lightning-caused fires: 238

### 2009 at this time:

Fires to date: 462  
Hectares burned: 109,507  
Person-caused fires: 134  
Lightning-caused fires: 328

## Most Recent Forecast for the CFC

**SYNOPSIS:** A weak cold front will pass through the Fire Centre today, but only isolated showers near the front can be expected, as the airmass is quite dry. Wind will shift from the south to northwest, reaching 20 km/h as the front passes. Tonight, a low pressure area will develop off the west coast and move northward. On Saturday, scattered showers will develop over the south and east of the Fire Centre as the low approaches. Temperatures at some locations will start the day near 15 degrees, but will cool to the 10 to 13 degree range as the cold front passes and will reach 8 to 12 on Saturday.

### WEST OF FRASER:

**TONIGHT:** Mainly cloudy. Wind north 10 km/h and easing to calm. Max RH 70% to 90%. Lows zero to 4.

**SATURDAY:** Mainly cloudy. Scattered showers in the south. Wind northwest 15 km/h. Min RH 40 to 50%. Highs 9 to 12.

### EAST OF FRASER

**TONIGHT:** Cloudy with isolated showers. Wind north 15 km/h. Max RH 70% to 90%. Lows 2 to 5.

**SATURDAY:** Mainly cloudy with scattered showers in the south and in the Cariboo mountains. Wind north 15 km/h. Min RH 50% to 70%. Highs 8 to 12.

### 3 TO 5 DAY OUTLOOK (SUNDAY THRU TUESDAY):

A deep upper trough from the north Pacific will move inland. Scattered showers on Sunday and Monday and then rain for most of the Fire Centre on Tuesday. Some wet snow is possible overnight at the higher elevations. Windy on Monday and Tuesday as a surface low lies along the coast, with southeast 20 to 30 km/h. Afternoon temperatures will range from 8 to 13 with lows near zero to plus 3.

**6 TO 10 DAY FORECAST (WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY OCT 9):** The upper trough remains through Friday with scattered showers and cool temperatures. An indication of warming and drying near the end of the week as an upper ridge pushes back in with highs returning to the upper teens.

**CONFIDENCE:** Good about the cold front today. Only fair about the amount of rain over the weekend. Good about the trough with rain and cooler temperatures early next week.

## More on Open Burning

As detailed on page two of this newsletter, open burning restrictions have now been lifted throughout the entire Cariboo Fire Centre region. The Cariboo Fire Centre will continue to impose restrictions every spring, so people are encouraged to look at doing backyard and industrial burning in the fall, versus waiting until the spring.

Pile burning is best conducted in the fall either after a heavy rain or the first snowfall, as the pile is at its driest and the surrounding fuels are moist, which limits the risk of the pile spreading. Also, temperatures tend to be cooler in the fall, the days are shorter and the overnight humidity greater.

The onus is on each individual to ensure safe, responsible burning, which includes burning only when it is safe and will continue to be safe to do so. Those found to have been responsible for an escaped fire may be liable for fire suppression costs and damages.

Please follow these tips on using fire safely:

- Keep fire sites away from buildings, trees and other combustible materials.
- Establish a fuel break around the area.
- Do not burn during windy conditions.
- Have adequate people, water and hand tools available to prevent the fire from escaping.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Ensure the fire is completely extinguished before leaving the area.

Under the Wildfire Act and Regulation a person has a legal obligation to make efforts to extinguish a fire that has spread beyond the intended burn area. The person must also report the fire by calling \*5555 from a cell phone or 1-800-663-5555.

For the definitions and regulations surrounding the different categories of fires, please go to: [bcwildfire.ca](http://bcwildfire.ca) And for further help in planning your burning activities, call the fire centre at 250 989-2600.

Report a wildfire	<b>*5555 on a cell or 1-800-663-5555</b>
Wildfire Information Line	<b>1-888-3FOREST</b>
Burn Registration Line	<b>1-888-797-1717</b>
Cariboo Fire Information Officer	<b>1-250-989-2665</b>

Want more information? Visit our websites at [bcwildfire.ca](http://bcwildfire.ca) & [BCForestFireInfo.gov.bc.ca](http://BCForestFireInfo.gov.bc.ca)