

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed March 20, 2020

### March 20, 2020 COVID-19 Update from Nanaimo Fire Rescue

#### Summary

City of Nanaimo Fire Rescue will not be issuing any backyard burning permits this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Permits are normally issued to residents with properties greater than one acre and on Protection Island in April to dispose of large amounts of organic waste. Any that have already been issued are rescinded.

Small cooking fires such as camp fires will still be permitted on private property so residents can spend time outdoors. To prevent spread of COVID-19, it is recommended to maintain social distancing (keep one to two metres apart from one another), wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, avoid contact with people who are sick, stay home unless you need medical care and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

For full regulations on cooking fires, visit the Burning Regulations page on [www.nanaimo.ca](http://www.nanaimo.ca) or call Nanaimo Fire Rescue at 250-753-7311. For more information on the City's response to COVID-19, visit [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/COVID-19](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/COVID-19)

*Strategic Link: n/a*

#### Key Points

- All residential backyard burning has been prohibited until further notice.
- Any burning permits that have been issued will be rescinded a per Fire Protection and Life Safety Regulation Bylaw 7108, Part 6, Sec 30.

#### Quotes

"COVID-19 is known to affect an individual's respiratory system. As a result, we are taking actions to limit exposure from any potential smoke irritants and to "flatten the curve"."

Karen Fry  
Fire Chief  
City of Nanaimo

#### Quick Facts

- If you think you have symptoms related to COVID-19, you can check them online through the BC Ministry of Health's COVID-19 symptom self-assessment tool found here: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>

-30-

**Contact:**

Farnaz Farrokhi  
Manager, Communications  
City of Nanaimo  
Farnaz.Farrokhi@nanaimo.ca  
250-755-4532



View the online edition for more information -  
<https://cnan.ca/3911PUY>