

Air Quality in North Cowichan



Fire Protection Bylaw: proposed changes *frequently asked questions*

IS NORTH COWICHAN BANNING THE USE OF WOODSTOVES?

North Cowichan is NOT banning the use of woodstoves. Council is considering limiting their use during air quality advisories, which happen infrequently. There have been a total of 12 days since 2013 where air quality advisories have been issued in the Cowichan Valley.

WILL NORTH COWICHAN SUBSIDIZE HYDRO COSTS DURING AIR QUALITY ADVISORIES WHEN THE USE OF WOOD BURNING APPLIANCES IS PROHIBITED?

No, air quality advisories occur infrequently and the increase in hydro costs to residents during these times will be minimal.

ARE REBATES AVAILABLE FOR THE CONVERSION TO LOWER EMISSION STOVES?

Yes, there is currently a Woodstove Exchange Program in place through the CVRD that North Cowichan residents may qualify for. Rebates of up to \$350 may be available for exchanging an old, uncertified woodstove (pre-1994). Newer woodstoves can reduce emissions by up to 87%! For more information, check out: www.cleartheaircowichan.ca

WHAT ABOUT THE POLLUTION FROM VEHICLES AND INDUSTRIAL SOURCES?

Recent air quality studies show that 14% of PM2.5 emissions come from the pulp and paper industry and only 6% come from the transportation sector. The proposed changes to the *Fire Protection Bylaw* are focused on open burning and space heating as these sources account for 77% of PM2.5 emissions.

WHY NOT EDUCATE PEOPLE TO BURN PROPERLY DRIED, SEASONED WOOD?

An educational campaign will take place if and when the Bylaw is amended, that explains the changes to the *Fire Protection Bylaw*, including ways to “burn smart” when it comes to wood burning appliances.

CAN I HAVE SMALL FIRES OR CAMPFIRES IN MY BACKYARD?

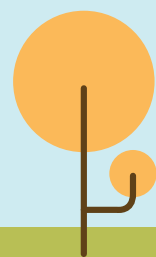
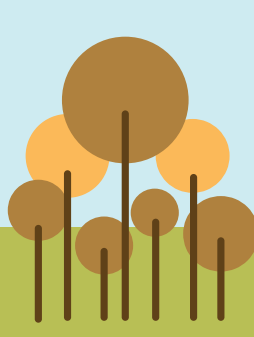
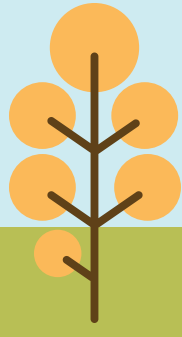
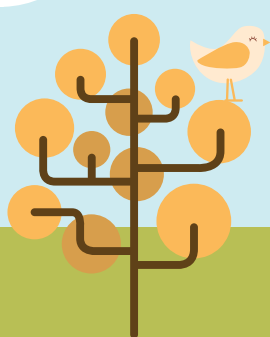
Unless there is a complete campfire ban issued by the provincial Wildfire Management Branch, then yes, campfires (less than 0.5m³) will still be allowed throughout Municipal boundaries, including within the UCB*. Also, outside the UCB*, individual burn piles smaller than 2x3m will still be permitted.

I LIVE WITHIN THE UCB*. IF I CAN'T BURN MY YARD WASTE, WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

Yard waste is accepted year-round, free of charge, at any CVRD Recycling Centre (including Bings Creek).

I HAVE AN ACREAGE LOCATED WITHIN THE UCB*, WHY CAN'T I HAVE AN OPEN BURN?

Owners of larger parcels of land (2+ acres) within the UCB* may be able to get a permit to burn for the purposes of reducing the fire hazard on their property. An exemption will also be provided for burning done as part of “normal farm practices” as per provisions in the *Right to Farm Act*.



UCB = Urban Containment Boundary

www.northcowichan.ca/airquality

MUNICIPALITY OF
NORTH
Cowichan