

INFORMATION ON CVRD BURNING BYLAW PROPOSAL

Information below regarding CVRD Bylaw No. 3716 – Open Burning Smoke Control Bylaw.

You can find all of this information, along with the Regional Airshed Protection Strategy <https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/View/70959> on our website <https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/1461/Smoke-Pollution-Your-Health>.

The Environmental Initiatives division also maintains a comprehensive website dedicated to air quality issues <https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/2115/Air>.

Several restrictions outlined within CVRD Bylaw No.3716 <https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/Home/View/9992> will impact all backyard burning activities in the specified CVRD Electoral Areas, which currently are Electoral Areas A through E. Key features of the Bylaw include the following:

Open Burning is permitted from March 15 through April 15 and from October 15 through November 15 only;

Open Burning must be located at least 10 metres from all property lines (generally restricting burning to parcels ½ acre in size or larger);

The size of Open Burning must not exceed:

- o2 metres in diameter; and

- o2 metres in height;

Open Burning may occur only when the BC Venting Index is rated as “good”

Check the BC Venting Index

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting/venting.html> for the southern Vancouver Island zone (also available by telephoning 1-888-281-2992)

Burning material must be smaller than 8" (200 mm) in diameter OR be burnt within 72 hours (no new material can be added after 5 pm)

All burning must occur between 7:00 AM and sunset

The bylaw was introduced as part of a suite of tools, which include free yard waste drop-off at local Recycling Centres, in an effort to improve local air quality.

In the Cowichan, the air contaminant of greatest concern is PM_{2.5}, which refers to particulate matter that is less than 2.5 microns in diameter. This contaminant can

travel deep into the lungs and become lodged there, causing heart and lung disease, and premature death.

Air quality data for the Cowichan region indicate that there are occasional exceedances of the provincial PM_{2.5} objectives from 2009 to 2015. Exceedances were primarily due to local open burning and wood burning appliances (winter), and forest fires located in other regions (summer). It has been estimated that 77% of the total PM_{2.5} in the Region is coming from area sources. Open burning accounted for 53% of the total PM_{2.5}.

There is solid scientific evidence of a strong link between air pollution levels and impacts on human health. Locally, recent data from Island Health indicates that in the Cowichan Local Health Area, admissions rates for children with respiratory diseases averaged 70% higher than provincial rates (for the period 1998 to 2012).