



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**April 14, 2020**

**Savary Island Burn Pile Ban Implemented**

Savary Island, B.C. – Effective at noon on Thursday, April 16 2020, no person shall ignite or maintain a burn pile on Savary Island.

Pursuant to “Savary Island Outdoor Fires Bylaw No. 549, 2019”, the Fire Chief of the Savary Island Volunteer Fire Department will be implementing a prohibition on igniting or maintaining all burn piles beginning Thursday, April 16 at noon.

A burn pile includes all outdoor fires regardless of size, other than campfires. This definition includes burn barrels and other containers where the products of combustion are not vented through a structure that has a flue and is incorporated in a building. This prohibition applies to all areas of Savary Island until further notice.

Those individuals in violation of the prohibition may be subject to a fine of up to \$2,000.

Campfires maintained at a size less 0.5 metres high and 0.5 metres in diameter are permitted at this time. Campfires must be monitored by a responsible adult at all times. Every person who ignites or maintains a campfire must ensure that the campfire is under control at all times, is more than 15 meters from any building and more than 3 meters from any combustible material. The campfire must be immediately adjacent to a sufficient supply of water or other substance that could extinguish the campfire, and located in an area where all flammable material has been removed down to mineral soil for at least one (1) metre in all directions from the outer perimeter of the campfire.

The burn pile restriction is consistent with the current province-wide open burning ban and is being put in place to reduce the chances of human-caused wildfire, and to limit smoke impacts on air quality and public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation, call 911. For the most up-to-date information during the COVID-19 state of emergency, visit the [Regional Emergency Operations Centre webpage](#).

**CONTACT:**

Ryan Thoms, Manager of Emergency Services

qathet Regional District

#202, 4675 Marine Avenue

Powell River, BC V8A 2L2

(604) 485-2260

[rthoms@qathet.ca](mailto:rthoms@qathet.ca)