



MEDIA RELEASE
April 3, 2020

Open burning prohibited from Saltery Bay to Lund, including Harwood Island and Northern Texada Island

qathet Regional District, B.C. – The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has banned open burning in certain areas within qathet Regional District until Thursday, April 15, due to respiratory concerns from COVID-19. Currently, campfires smaller than 0.5 meters wide by 0.5 meters high are allowed.

This ban is in effect for Saltery Bay to Lund and includes Harwood Island and Northern Texada Island from Gilles Bay to Van Anda. To view areas affected by the ban, please use the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy [Venting Index Interactive Map](#).

Backyard burns of any kind pose a serious health risk to the community, especially those with respiratory issues and people who are isolating at home. Smoke pollution from open burning can seriously impact health, as well as the health and well-being of neighbours and family members.

If you see any infractions to the open burning ban, please call the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) hotline at 1-877-952-RAPP (7277), or cellular dial #7277 on the Telus network. Please view the full Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Media Release: [Open Burning Restrictions Issued for All Smoke Sensitivity Zones in BC](#) for more information.

While the focus should remain on physical distancing and hand washing, keeping air as clean as possible will also help to protect all residents. For specific community restrictions, please review the [City of Powell River Media Release on Backyard Burning](#) and [Tla'amin Nation website](#).

The most up-to-date information on the Regional Emergency Operations Centre during the COVID-19 state-of-emergency can be followed at <https://www.qathet.ca/2020/03/18/qrd-response-to-covid-19/>.

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