

# Public Service Announcement

May 30, 2014

City of Edmonton

## Edmonton Fire forecasts fire risk

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services (EFRS) has begun monitoring the Fire Weather Index (FWI) to forecast fire risk as part of its ongoing efforts to continuously improve public safety in Edmonton. Each year, EFRS begins monitoring conditions as soon snow cover has disappeared and indexing stops once snow cover returns.



Edmonton Fire Rescue has been using the Fire Weather Index System since 2012. This model has been adopted by Fire Rescue to manage the unique wildland-urban environment throughout the City of Edmonton and in the North Saskatchewan River Valley.

The Fire Weather Index System is based on weather data such as temperature, wind conditions, relative humidity and moisture levels in the ground. The combination of these factors affects the fire hazard rating in Edmonton. When the fire hazard is high to extreme, EFRS may impose burning restrictions or a fire ban. Restricted activities include open burning, fireworks, and fire pits or cooking stoves in parks, and if conditions persist, backyard fire pits.

"Fire Weather Indexing does not prevent fires, it is a behavior modification tool," says Fire Marshal Tom Karpa, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services. "If we are aware of an increased risk for wildfire or grassfires, we will ask for the public's assistance in protecting life, property and the environment in Edmonton, by mitigating the risk of wildfire."

Fire Marshal Karpa said all residents should practice fire safety and fire prevention regardless of whether or not a fire ban applies to their activities.

During a fire ban, the City of Edmonton will emphasize compliance over enforcement. However, anyone who breaks a fire ban may be subject to fines or charges if the activity causes a safety issue including damage to property.

To be safe, check [albertafirebans.ca](http://albertafirebans.ca) for before you burn.

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