



# Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department June News



## The Threat of Wildfire:

Each year, the SVFD is dispatched to reports of illegal burning. Typically, these originate through phone calls to 911 from *multiple* neighbours, visitors, or park officials. Surrounded by dry forest, Anmore and Belcarra residents cannot (and typically, do not) take the risk of wildfire lightly.



## Regulation Reminders:

- *The Village of Belcarra* does not allow outdoor fires. Burning permits for water-only-access properties are limited to two short periods in the months of April and October.
- *The Village of Anmore* offers campfire permits under set stipulations
- The municipalities provide the SVFD with lists of approved fire permits. If a fire is unauthorized or if someone is contravening the conditions of a permit (e.g. fire is too large, precautions are not in place, neighbours are bothered by smoke, etc.), the fire is extinguished and fines may be levied.
- Non-compliance is dealt with by the RCMP. Police are also automatically called to intervene with anyone who restricts access to firefighters from their property.
- Penalties for spreading wildfire are high (up to \$1 million and jail-time). A Cariboo man was fined \$860,000 in 2011 for unintentionally allowing a campfire on his property to spread elsewhere.
- **BURNING BANS MEAN ALL EXISTING PERMITS ARE SUSPENDED. NO FLAMES ANYWHERE.**

## The Public's Help:

The SVFD will respond to all reports of fire. Trained to the provincial standard, our volunteers want to get to and extinguish these fires early.

Fire prevention must be a community-wide effort. We ask every resident to remain vigilant this summer and to report all dangerous incidents to 911. It only takes one dropped cigarette or one careless act to cause a tragedy. Good strategies for protecting and “fire-proofing” your home from wildfire can be found at <http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/>. We'd appreciate the help with both efforts.

**SVFD 40th Anniversary Celebration Reminder:** The band is booked. Food trucks are booked. Moody Ales Beer/Wine Garden is booked. There will be a big bouncy castle and tons of kids' events. Hope to see you at Spirit Park on Sat, July 7th from 3-11 PM. 40 years to celebrate – it'll be a lot of fun!

Sincerely,

Jay Sharpe (*Fire Chief*)

Dave Gregory (*Dist. Chief Anmore*)

Jol Drake (*Dist. Chief Belcarra*)

**For Community Fire Service Updates:**



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