North Shore Fire Chiefs urge caution in local parks and forests

The Fire Chiefs from North Vancouver District, North Vancouver City, and West Vancouver are asking the public to take extra precautions when in local parks and forested areas. The Fire Danger rating is currently ‘High’ throughout the North Shore. With the hot, dry weather expected to continue well into next week, the rating may soon advance to ‘Extreme’, which could trigger the need to limit or close public access to forested trails until the hazard subsides.

“We are asking everyone to take care when in our parks and forested areas,” said North Vancouver District Fire Chief Victor Penman. “We would rather prevent a fire than respond to one.”

The North Shore, stretching from Horseshoe Bay to Deep Cove, covers 100 square miles, a large portion of which is forested, including Lynn Canyon, Cates and Lighthouse parks. Many residential neighbourhoods are in close proximity to these forested areas and, combined with southern exposure and steep terrain, the potential for an interface fire is a real one.

“We’re hoping that trail closures won’t be required,” said District of West Vancouver Fire Chief Jim Cook. “We’ll continue to monitor the situation and we’re asking for the public’s help to eliminate fire hazards in our trails and forested areas.”

“Lightning strikes account for the majority of forest fires,” adds City of North Vancouver Fire Chief Dan Pistilli. “And, fires in urban areas are not uncommon, especially when landscaped areas in parks and along boulevards are tinder dry.”

Following are some summer fire prevention tips:

- Discard cigarettes safely and do not smoke on trails.
- Paper cups, food wrappers and other combustibles can provide kindling for a fire; dispose of garbage in a proper receptacle.
- Dispose of glass and bottles in the recycling container, garbage receptacle or return for deposit. Strong sunshine through a discarded bottle or jar can act as a magnifying glass and start fires.
- Store gasoline, propane and other flammable liquids outside your home in a detached garage or shed and away from any heat sources.

Municipal bylaws prohibit open fires throughout the North Shore, including camp fires, outdoor (built-in, copper/metal, or brick) fireplaces, fire pits, and clay open fire garden heaters called...
chimineas. Allowed are propane/natural gas and briquette barbecues or grills, and propane/natural gas fireplaces and fire pits.

For additional fire safety and summer safety tips, please visit your municipal websites.

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*For more information, contact:*

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