



Information Bulletin

PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK MAINTAINS WILDFIRE READINESS

Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan, July 30, 2021 – Parks Canada takes wildfire preparedness very seriously. Fire crews are on standby when conditions are extreme and fire management staff monitor fire danger to ensure the park is ready to respond to wildfire. During periods of increased fire danger, Prince Albert National Park is patrolled by helicopter to identify wildfire starts early. The safety of people, infrastructure and neighbouring lands is always Parks Canada's first priority.

The fire danger rating in Prince Albert National Park is extreme. A few days of low temperatures and some precipitation briefly lowered the fire danger; however, the forecast of hot and dry conditions and extreme fire danger is expected to continue for the August Long weekend. There are currently no active wildfires in Prince Albert National Park.

Exercise caution with your campfire:

A fire ban for Prince Albert National Park was lifted on Monday, July 19, 2021 due to cool temperatures and recent precipitation. Factors such as environmental conditions, probability of wildfire starts and resources are considered when implementing a fire ban. The need for a fire ban in the park is assessed daily.

A few reminders when enjoying a campfire:

- A fire permit is required to have a campfire at a campsite.
- Fires are permitted only in the fire pits provided.
- Only burn the wood provided at designated wood piles.
- Keep your fire small and under control. Never leave a fire unattended.
- Make sure your fire is completely out before you go to bed at night or leave your campsite.
- Completely extinguish campfires with water. Soak it, stir it, and soak it again until it is cool to the touch before leaving it.

Smoke advisory:

Widespread smoke from wildfires in northern Saskatchewan is forecast and may be visible in Waskesiu. This may affect residents and visitors over the August Long Weekend. Here are some tips on how you can safely venture outdoors or around the townsite when things get smoky:

- Children and the elderly are most vulnerable to smoke. Even pets can be at risk from smoke. As much as possible, reduce their exposure to it.
- Check the [smoke forecast](#) and [air quality report](#) before heading outdoors.
- Make alternate plans. A list of activities that are indoors or less physically active will help you safely make the most of your day.
- Prevent outdoor air from coming indoors as much as possible.
- Keep the windows closed in your car and turn on air re-circulation.

For more information on health safety during smoke advisories, check out:

- [Air Quality Health Index](#)



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- [View current alerts](#)
- [Wildfire smoke and your health](#)

Reducing the risk of wildfires year-round:

Wildfire preparation is taken seriously and measures are taken to reduce the risk from potential wildfires to Waskesiu and neighbouring communities. A strong risk reduction plan is key to ensure public safety, enhance visitor experience, and protect resources.

In winter 2021, wildfire risk reduction operations occurred in select areas of Waskesiu. Mature spruce trees and underbrush were thinned from Poplar Drive to the Waskesiu Golf Course maintenance road and 10th hole to reduce the risk of property damage from potential wildfires. The area was identified and selected due to high hazard and proximity of mature spruce trees. Over time, the open forest canopy will provide new habitat for songbirds, elk and deer and the growth of new and more diverse plant life.

Chainsaws and other hand tools were used around the Operations Building this winter to prune trees and remove undergrowth that reduces the effectiveness of the Waskesiu community fuel break. In 2001, the community fuel break was developed to help protect Waskesiu from the risk of wildfires. The fuel break requires ongoing maintenance as young spruce and pine trees grow and create new fuel for wildfires.

An annual spring prescribed fire along the south section of the fuel break is another key part of the maintenance strategy that burns off highly flammable dead grass and renews the fuel break before peak wildfire season.

What you can do:

- Check the [Important Bulletins page](#) for alerts and fire ban information before visiting the park.
- Visit [Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency website](#) for provincial wildfire alerts and advisories.
- Learn how you can help protect yourself and others using the principles of [FireSmart](#).
- [Get prepared](#). Make a plan and prepare a 72 hour emergency kit.
- Report any wildfires, illegal campfires or suspicious smoke to Parks Canada Dispatch: 1-877-852-3100 or call 911.

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