



## **News Release – For Immediate Release Monday, February 27, 2017**

---

### **Fire Marshal reminds residents that fire season begins Wednesday**

As the start of fire season approaches on March 1, County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service is reminding residents that in the interest of safety to people and property, all fire-related bylaws must be followed, including obtaining appropriate permits.

Fire Marshal Ken Atamanchuk stresses that this year stranded crops pose a particular threat: “Due to an extremely wet growing and harvest season, many crops remain stranded in farmers’ fields. To ensure that safe practices are followed and to mitigate the risks involved when eliminating these crops, a permit must be obtained prior to conducting a burn. Permits are free and easy to obtain.”

There are four Fire Burning Areas within the County (White, Yellow, Red and Green). Fire permit requirements differ, depending on the location of the intended burn. During fire season (March 1st to October 31st), White area residents require verbal notification and Yellow area residents need an inspection. For those residing in a hamlet, subdivision, or the Red area, a written fire permit is needed year-round. Residents who live in the Green area must call Alberta Agriculture and Forestry during fire season to obtain a written permit from a Forestry Fire Guardian.

Atamanchuk stresses that burning is never permitted in the Dunes Natural Area: “This entire region is considered to be at extremely high risk for wildfires due to heavy forestation. The amount of vegetation also poses a hazard because it makes it very hard for fire and emergency crews to access the area during emergency situations. This is why having open fires, including campfires, is strictly prohibited in the Dunes.”

In the event a Fire Ban is issued in the County, burn permits are no longer in place until the ban is lifted. Notifications of fire bans are made through local media.

To request an inspection or permit, to clarify your Burn Area, or to get more information about fire safety requirements, call Regional Fire Service at 780-532-9727 or go to [www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits) .

-30-

#### **Media Contact:**

Ken Atamanchuk  
Fire Marshal  
katamanchuk@countygp.ab.ca  
780-532-9727