



## **News Release** – For Immediate Release Tuesday, April 20, 2010

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### **County Issues Fire Ban**

Due to the high fire hazard, a County wide fire ban has been issued for all outdoor fires. The only exception is approved recreational firepits.

The fire ban includes the Towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, Wembley and the Village of Hythe.

Effective immediately, all outstanding burning permits are revoked and no new permits will be issued until the ban is lifted.

“Our fire departments responded to 15 grass fires in the past week,” stated Acting Fire Chief Everett Cooke. “The safety of our residents is our top priority.”

Although the use of a recreational firepit is permitted, the public is encouraged to keep a constant watch for any stray sparks or embers. Due to the potential for accidental ignitions, the use of motorized equipment such as ATVs and dirt bikes is not suggested during times of high wildfire risk.

For industries, open pit flaring is suspended and fires contained in facilities or on sites must be approved by a fire guardian.

The fire ban will remain in effect until weather conditions change and the area receives a significant amount of precipitation.

Please check [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca) for updates or call the Fire Services office at 780-532-9727.

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For more information contact:

Everett Cooke  
Acting Fire Chief  
780-532-9727

Lesley Nielsen-Bjerke  
Communications Coordinator  
780-532-9722

