



**News Release** – For Immediate Release Monday, May 6, 2013

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## **County Burn Advisory Upgrade and Weekend Ground Fire Update**

The County Fire Service has upgraded a burn advisory that was issued last week. No new fire permits will be issued to residents in the County until further notice. All existing permits are still valid under safe burning practices only.

Unless absolutely necessary, the Fire Service recommends that there is no burning at this time.

“Due to the dry, warm conditions, we are at heightened risk of wildfires,” said County of Grande Prairie Fire Chief Everett Cooke. “The upgrade is a preventative measure for the safety of residents and businesses throughout the County.”

### *Reminder - Safe Burning Practices*

When it is safe to burn, remember to follow safe burning practices. Burning is not permitted when winds reach 12km/hr or higher as fires can escape easily when winds pick up. If a fire does get out of control, keep safety in mind and do not fight it yourself. Call 911 immediately.

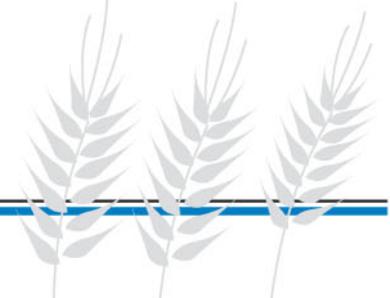
For safe burning practices, visit the County website at [countygp.ab.ca](http://countygp.ab.ca).

### *Weekend Ground Fire Update*

The following information is an update of the fire that occurred Saturday, May 4 near the Weyerhaeuser mill. The fire was considered a ground fire, and was moving away from Weyerhaeuser to the east-northeast.

- Currently the fire is listed as being held, with very little active flame and smoke. It is 75% contained with a Dozer Guard and natural fire breaks in place to contain the area.
- The fire grew to a total of 120 Hectares in size.
- At no time were any buildings/structures threatened and at no time were any residences or businesses evacuated.
- During the height of the event, access to the staging area at the Dunes was restricted and Resources Road was blocked.

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- The County Fire Service dispatched additional resources (including its 105' Ladder Truck) to Weyerhaeuser to stage and be prepared to defend in the event of a wind shift.
- Today heavy equipment, three eight-man crews from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, the County Fire Service, two rotary wing aircraft and three water tenders are working hotspots.
- The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- Residents may notice minor smoke over the next few days.

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**For more information contact:**

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