



**wildsight
golden**

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For Immediate Release

Backyard Fires must be done responsibly

Tis the season for backyard fires. The weather is getting warmer, and there is currently no province-wide fire ban that will likely happen later in the summer. Backyard fires are a tradition and a fun social activity, but they need to be done responsibly in order to minimise smoke and air pollution out of respect for your neighbours.

First off it is important to not burn any refuse material including trees, stumps and leaves as they can produce a lot of smoke. The only thing that should be burned in a campfire is dry firewood and kindling. Backyard fires should have a proper fire pit and adhere to BC Wildfire Service and Golden Fire Rescue guidelines for campfires.

If you're not sure what to do about your yard waste, the Town of Golden is having a free yard waste pickup on May 9 from 6-10am. Residents can place yard waste in containers, compostable bags or bundles at their regular curbside collection area before 8 a.m. on May 9 for free pickup. No registration required. Bagged yard waste must be in compostable bags or it will not be picked up.

Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, tree cones, tree branches, shrubs and bushes. These items must not exceed eight inches in diameter or eight feet in length. No other types of waste will be accepted, including construction wood waste. Any yard waste not placed in containers, bags, or bundled at the curb will not be picked up.

It would be helpful for the Town of Golden to include an information piece in the tax notices about what residents can do individually to reduce air pollution. We receive information about garbage collection, recycling and watering restrictions in these notices; thus there could also be information about backyard burning bylaws, and proper burning practices for wood stoves sent directly to residents. This would significantly help educate people to reduce air pollution in our community.

Submitted by the Golden Air Quality Committee

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