



**wildsight
golden**

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For Immediate Release

Responsible Wood Burning Starts with Responsible Firewood Collecting

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Every year in the fall, people in Golden and the surrounding area head out to the bush to collect firewood for the winter season. This is common practice, but it's important to remember that there are certain rules and regulations around doing so.

You are required to obtain a permit before collecting firewood on crown land, and the permit must be on the person at all times while cutting or transporting firewood. Firewood cutting is prohibited in research areas, recreation areas and campsites and is also not allowed on wood lots or active logging areas. The permit holder is responsible for knowing where firewood cutting/collecting is allowed and where isn't, including whether the land is on Crown land or private property.

No logging equipment is permitted to aid in the cutting of trees, except for power saws. Only dead trees may be cut (standing or down). Extra care should be taken to avoid cutting live trees. Larch and other deciduous trees lose their needles in the fall and at first glance may appear to be dead to some people. Trees with broken tops or branches are not to be cut down, as they may continue to live well into the future.

Freshly blown down trees are also not to be cut up if they have green needles; if the tree has green needles it means it was alive a relatively short time ago. Trees that died recently are more likely to still have high moisture content compared to trees that died longer ago. This is important because dry firewood burns much cleaner than wood that is less dry.

It is not permitted to cut any trees that are larger than 60cm in diameter or those showing signs of wildlife use. It is an offence under the Wildlife Act to destroy any tree with an active bird nest. Trees are also not allowed to be cut within 50 metres of any

stream. Trees/vegetation along waterways help control/limit soil erosion into aquatic environments and they play an important role in enhancing habitat for aquatic species.

It's important to make sure there are no trees that are left leaning or hanging as this could pose a risk to other people. All branches should be cut off from trees that are felled, with the branches being scattered. Debris must also be cleared from roads and ditches.

Firewood must be pre-cut before transport and must not exceed 1.2 metres with the exception of cedar, which must not exceed 0.6 metres.

Mount 7 is a popular firewood collecting area due to its close proximity to town. There are many trees cut down there every year that are both alive and over 60cm in diameter. There is also a research plot on Mount 7 where firewood collecting is prohibited. If you notice anyone collecting firewood illegally it is important to report it to the RAPP hotline.

Wildsight Golden is still giving away free moisture metres to those who want one. Moisture metres are devices that measure the moisture content of firewood to ensure it is adequately dry before burning it. If you would like a free moisture metre, please contact golden@wildsight.ca to arrange for pick up.