

Fact Sheet on Elimination of Wildfire Work Permits

Important Notice: Wildfire Work Permits have been eliminated.

- Effective April 1, 2024, Wildfire Work Permits are no longer required for industrial and other work operations in the Burning Permit areas.
- These operations must now comply with the requirements prescribed by the new Wildfires Regulation.
- Burning Permits and Travel Permits are still required.
- These changes were introduced in the Wildfires Amendment Act and new Wildfires Regulation.

Changes that came into force on April 1, 2024 are as follows:

The Wildfires Act

- The wildfire work permit system is replaced by the new Wildfires Regulation that prescribes fire safety requirements for industrial and other operations in the burning permit areas.
- The following work cannot be carried out within a burning permit area unless the person (operation) complies with the requirements prescribed by the Wildfires Regulation:
 - an industrial operation;
 - construction of a dam, bridge or camp;
 - construction or operation of a mill that produces timber products;
 - an operation that is likely to cause the accumulation of slash or debris on land; or
 - any other work prescribed by regulation (currently no other work has been prescribed).

- Augmented enforcement is introduced that adds clear authorities to inspect for compliance and to investigate wildfire causes.
- Authorities are clarified for officers to enter private property for inspections and investigations, including authorities to enter or cross lands, use equipment, conduct tests and take samples and records.
- Prohibitions and ability to stop work to rectify non-compliance issues are updated.

Maximum penalties for convictions under the Act are increased and are now:

- \$100,000 and no more than two years for imprisonment or both for individuals; and
- \$1,000,000 for corporations.

The Wildfires Regulation

- Wildfire work permits are replaced by regulatory requirements.
- Mandatory firefighting equipment is prescribed for industrial and other operations in the burning permit areas, based on class of machines being utilized, and the number of persons at a camp or worksite.
- Terms and conditions previously included in wildfire work permits are now reflected as regulatory requirements in the new regulation.
- The list of officers with the authority to enforce the Wildfires Act and regulation has been updated and expanded.
- Provisions are carried forward from the Burning Permit Areas Regulation, which was repealed on April 1, 2024, including the legal definition of the burning permit areas.

- Restrictions are prescribed on the use, discharge, ignition, and unsafe handling and storage of incendiary and tracer ammunition, fireworks, firecrackers, sky lanterns, and exploding targets, some of which were previously included in the Burning Permit Areas Regulation.
- Requirements are prescribed for the bulldozing, removing, accumulating and compacting of vegetation and debris by industrial and other operators in the burning permit areas, including the requirement that windrows or piles of these materials be no higher than 0.6 metres.
- The regulation allows for an exception to be made to these vegetation and debris windrow requirements, namely that a burning permit, a travel permit or a permit or licence issued under another act (such as the Forest Act) may provide an exemption from these requirements, or may set out alternative requirements.
- The new regulation also provides an exception for forestry operations to the bulldozing, removing, accumulating and piling of vegetation and debris during the cutting or harvesting operation, if certain conditions are met.
- These exception provisions aim to provide a similar level of flexibility as was previously provided by adjusting terms and conditions that were included in wildfire work permits.

References:

Wildfires Act

<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/w128.php>

Wildfires Regulation

https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/_pdf-regs.php?reg=26/2024



April 1, 2024

**For additional information, please
contact your local Conservation
Officer Service district office:**

Eastern Region

Regional Office:

Lac du Bonnet - 204-345-1444

District Offices:

Ashern - 204-768-2368

Beausejour - 204-268-6184

Falcon Lake - 204-349-2201

Gypsumville - 204-659-5208

Hodgson - 204-372-6296

Lac du Bonnet - 204-345-1400

Lake Winnipeg East - 204-345-1406

Lundar - 204-762-5229

Pine Falls - 204-367-6130

Rennie - 204-369-3153

Riverton/Lake Winnipeg - 204-378-
2261

Selkirk - 204-785-5080

Seven Sisters - 204-348-4004

Sprague - 204-437-2348

Steinbach - 204-346-6110

Winnipeg - 204-945-7273

Western Region

Regional Office:

Brandon - 204-726-6441

District Offices:

Boissevain - 204-534-2028

Carberry - 204-834-8800

Cranberry Portage - 204-472-3331

Western Region cont.

Western District Offices cont.

Dauphin - 204-622-2106

Manitou - 204-242-2950

Neepawa - 204-476-2076

Portage la Prairie - 204-239-3204

Roblin - 204-937-6452

Shoal Lake - 204-759-4080

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Swan River - 204-734-3429

The Pas - 204-627-8287

Virden - 204-748-4240

Winnipegosis - 204-656-7030

Northern Region

Regional Office:

Thompson - 204-677-6648

District Offices:

Churchill - 204-675-8897

Gillam - 204-652-2273

Gods Lake Narrows - 204-335-2366

Island Lake - 204-456-2363

Lynn Lake/Leaf Rapids - 204-356-2413

Norway House - 204-359-6877

Thompson - 204-677-6653

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