



WHISTLER

FIRE RESCUE SERVICE

INTERFACE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE REGULATIONS

The Resort Municipality of Whistler experiences “high” and “extreme” forest fire danger class ratings, as defined by BC Wildfire Management Branch. This creates a situation where construction in the wild land urban interface can be a potential source of ignition resulting in a wildfire.

The interface areas in the Resort Municipality of Whistler are those areas where development and maintenance activities are taking place in areas next to or among forested areas. To determine if your construction site is subject to these regulations contact fire@whistler.ca to arrange for a site inspection.

The Whistler Fire Rescue Service referred to the Wildfire Regulations (B.C. Reg. 38/2005) as a guideline in developing these regulations. They have been modified from their Industrial application to reflect the urban construction environment. The authority to use these regulations can be found in the Resort Municipality of Whistler Fire Protection and Fireworks, Bylaw 2046, 2014.

Goal of the regulations:

The goal of these regulations is to ensure that sources of ignition are eliminated and/or mitigation measures are put in place to reduce the risk of wildfires during Fire Danger Class Ratings *high* and *extreme*.

The following regulations shall apply to construction sites, unless a site specific exemption has been granted.

Restrictions During High Danger Class

After **three consecutive days** of a *High* rating, high-risk construction activity in the interface area (within 10 meters of the forest) shall cease at 1300 hours each day. Examples of high risk activity are:

- a. Blasting
- b. Excavating
- c. Drilling
- d. Grinding
- e. Hot works.

The following activities may continue after 1300 hours during a *High* fire danger class:

- a. Work inside a structure (excluding hot works)
- b. Use of electrically powered equipment
- c. Work with hand tools
- d. Heavy-duty equipment or small engines may continue to work in areas around a site where they are not within 10 meters of the forest.

A fire watch shall be maintained for a minimum of two hours after construction ceases.

High risk construction activities within the interface area may resume to a regular schedule after the fire danger class falls to ***Moderate or Low***

Restrictions During Extreme Danger Class

After **three consecutive days** of fire danger class rating *Extreme*, all high risk construction activity in the interface area (within 10 meters of the forest) shall cease.

The following activities may continue during an *Extreme* fire danger class:

- a) Work inside a structure (excluding hot works)
- b) Use of electrically powered equipment
- c) Work with hand tools
- d) Heavy-duty equipment or small engines may continue to work in areas around a site where they are not within 10 meters of the forest.

A fire watch shall be maintained for a minimum of **two** hours after construction ceases.

High risk construction activity may resume, based on the restrictions during *High* danger class, when the fire danger class rating falls to *High*.

All construction restrictions shall be lifted when the danger rating is at *Moderate* or *Low*.

Exemptions

Exemptions to the above stated construction restrictions may be granted based on a site specific inspection and prescription for mitigating measures.

Mitigating measures may include any or all of the following:

- a) Reduction of fuel
- b) Changing moisture content of fuel
- c) Provision of firefighting equipment
- d) Designated smoking area

Note: The ability to apply water to increase fuel moisture content may be impacted by sprinkler restrictions and will be monitored. This may result in an exemption being rescinded. Construction sites using municipal fire hydrants will be required to obtain a [Hydrant Use Permits](#)

To apply for an exemption to the Construction Restrictions contact fire@whistler.ca or call 604-935-8260 to arrange an inspection. The exemption program is being evaluated as a pilot project and at this time no permit fees are being applied.