

## Wildfires – Reducing the Risk

Lately we've all seen the wildfire devastation in Fort McMurray and the surrounding area. Wildfires are also burning in [BC](#), Manitoba and [Ontario](#). At a time like this it is a good idea to brush up on what we all can do to prevent wildfires from starting here in beautiful Seguin.

Seguin Fire Chief, Don Hood, informed OLRA that the "Fire Ratings" we see on signs around Seguin such as the one below are based on twice daily Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR&F) fire hazard evaluations of our area.



Seguin fire rating as of May 9<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Each morning and afternoon, Seguin receives notice from the MNR&F in Sudbury of the Seguin fire rating based on such criteria as:

- Temperature
- Dew Point
- Winds
- Weather forecast
- Trees in our area

Currently Seguin has a "High" rating meaning ONLY camp fires needed for cooking and warmth are allowed. For the full guide see the link below: <http://www.seguin.ca/en/live/firerating.asp>

**Reducing the Risk of Campfires:** When building a fire pit make sure it is on sand or rock to prevent tree roots from catching fire. Make a ring around the fire pit with rocks to contain the fire. Put out your fire with water until all the embers are completely extinguished and cooled. For more info: [Ministry of Natural Resources](#).

**If you smoke,** make sure your smoking materials are cooled and then discarded in a fire proof container.

**Open Daytime Fires** – During Low to Moderate ratings permits are required to have daytime open fires. Note that the higher winds and lower humidity during the day make fires harder to control.

**Liability:** If you start a fire that gets out of your control the Seguin Fire Department will attend to it and you will be liable for the cost to put it out. Property damage caused by the fire will be a further insurance issue.

**Fireworks:** Please handle all fireworks with safety and fire prevention in mind.

**What to Do if you See a Problem Fire:** Stay calm and immediately call 911 to report it. Know the nearest property's fire code and the road you are on to help the fire department quickly locate the fire.

For more info: <http://www.seguin.ca/en/live/forestfiresafety.asp>

**Thank you for helping to reduce the risk of wildfires so we can all stay safe and enjoy beautiful Seguin!**