

FUEL MODIFICATION

1) The Terrace Mountain fire a year ago gave us a scary awakening. It prompted me to draw up a **FUEL MODIFICATION PLAN** to address the problem of “talk” on how to run away from a fire, but no idea on how to mitigate the fire threat itself. I have submitted this plan to the Regional District of Central Okanagan and have met with a favourable response from the Directors and staff there.

Now that we are into the fire season and apprehensively staring at all the dry brush surrounding us, I have a further suggestion on how we can initiate some action.

(1) We (the RDCO Board) must strengthen Bylaw 1066 or introduce another bylaw to require private absentee property owners as well as residents to fire safe their properties. HAZARD MANAGEMENT is a priority interest of RDCO as stated in your WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN.

(2) This bylaw will enable you to implement and enforce Recommendations 24, 25, 26, and 33 of the Blackwell Report.

(3) At the present time there is no way the people can dispose of fuel except haul it to the transfer station in the trunk of their car. This method is ineffective.

(4) The requirement that there be no open burning on lots less than 1 hectare eliminates every one on North Westside from doing backyard burning.

(5) I suggest that until the options I suggest are implemented, that residents be allowed to do backyard burning during a designated “burning season” such as the last two weeks of October and the last two weeks of March. With adherence to venting conditions, I am sure the residents would tolerate some smoke in order to remove hazardous material. The fire chief must be instructed to issue permits and as well, inspect every pile before ignition and stand by with apparatus if necessary to insure that it is safe. People would be pleased to spend part of the winter clearing and stockpiling fuel for the “burning season”. The fire chief should not resent doing his “duty” for two weeks in the fall and spring.

The District of Spallumcheen is ‘way ahead of us in alternatives for open burning.

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To the residents of **Stepping Stones, Udy, and McLeod** subdivisions;

• **ALTERNATIVE TO OPEN BURNING** •

Commencing on April 12th, 2010 the public works department will be going door to door in your neighborhood to chip your pruning's and tree branches.

We will be in Stepping Stones and Udy subdivisions on April 12th & 13th, 2010, and in the McLeod subdivision on April 14th & 15th, 2010.

In exchange for this **FREE** service the Township requests that you;

1. Neatly stack the material adjacent to the roadway with the butt ends of the material facing the street (approximately 3 feet from the edge of pavement).
2. Ensure that the material does not exceed 5 inches in diameter.
3. Do NOT include any material containing nails or other metal components.
4. Do NOT tie the material with wire.
5. Have your material by the road side prior to the dates mentioned for your area as we will only be by your residence ONCE.
6. That you will respect the environment of your neighbors and not burn any unwanted materials.

You can contact the Armstrong - Spallumcheen landfill at 250-546-6474 or the Regional District of North Okanagan office at 250-550-3700, to find what alternative disposal methods are available to you.

For more information on the 'Chipping Program' please contact the Township Office at 250-546-3013 or 1-866-546-3013 (toll free).

If you want the chips please advise the Township.

This operation would be financed UBCM as suggested in the Blackwell Report.

Armstrong (Tolko) would probably be glad to receive the chips for "hog fuel". They could be broadcast on the property if the owner wished, but only if there was no fire hazard. Tolko would have to address any fire hazard at their mill, but they have addressed that.

The fire chief here (Carson) is adamantly opposed to this idea for no particularly good reason that I can see. He is still obsessed with his "trench" or curtain burner. In my mind it is not cost effective. How much would it cost to haul it out here and operate it? Also how would the people get their waste to it. A curtain burner is NO viable option in my mind, and the idea should be discarded.

We are having difficulty in getting our fire chief to do anything to mitigate the fire hazard out here except forbid people to have fires in their backyards, and campaign for his fireboat as the only answer to our interface wildfire dangers.

We are also having difficulty in getting our director Edson to take any action whatsoever in this matter or inform us of anything he is doing.