

Simpcw and BC Wildfire Service to hold controlled burn near Barriere



The BC Wildfire Service will be partnering with Simpcw First Nation this month in the implementation of a prescribed burn next to their community of Chu Chua. The controlled burn will be highly visible to Highway 5 and all communities in the immediate area. Pictured is a prescribed burn that took place on the Kanaka Bar Reserve last month in partnership with the Kanaka Bar Band and BC Wildfire Service. (BC Wildfire Service Facebook photo)

A controlled burn will be taking place between the dates of Apr. 12 – 30 on North Thompson IR1, located adjacent to the Village of Chu Chua and approximately 18 kilometres north of the District of Barriere .

The prescribed burn is a partnership between the Simpcw First Nation and the BC Wildfire Service and is estimated to cover approximately 22 hectares. The intended goal is to reduce wildfire risks to Chu Chua and other nearby communities.

Although the project could begin as early as Apr. 12, and will conclude by the end of Apr. 30, an official advisory from Simpcw and the BC Wildfire Service say the exact timing of the prescribed burn will be dependent on weather and site conditions.

“A low to moderate-intensity surface fire will be utilized to remove combustible materials and mimic naturally occurring ground fire thereby helping to reduce the threat of interface wildfires in the area. The prescribed burn will be ignited only if conditions are suitable and will allow for quick smoke dissipation,” says the advisory, “Personnel from Simpcw First Nation and the BC Wildfire Service will carefully prepare, control and monitor the fire at all times.”

The burn will be highly visible to the communities of Chu Chua, Barriere, Darfield, Little Fort, Chinook Cove and from Highway 5.