

Nareka Jacques

From: Municipal Hall
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

Please be advised that this complaint has been resolved. I contacted the complainant, did a site visit, and had a discussion with the complaine. Today, the property owner had been advised of the issues of noncompliance with smouldering unattended fires that will be extinguished. A reminder of the Open Burning and Smoke Control regulations was provided with respect to the parameters around the number of days burning.

As the complaint was addressed to Mayor and Council, please forward on any relevant details.

Regards,

Kenn Mount, ECFO, BA, CLA

Fire Chief, Central Saanich Fire Department
1512 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton BC V8M 1W9
250.544.4238 | csfire.ca | csfiresmart.ca



We gratefully acknowledge that the ancestral land on which we work are within the traditional territories of the WŚÁNEĆ peoples: WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), BOŖEĆEN (Pauquachin), SŖÁUTW (Tsawout), WSIŖEM (Tseycum) and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations.

March 17, 2025

District of Central Saanich
1903 Mount Newton Cross Road
Saanichton, B.C. V8M 2A9

Dear Mayor and Council,

As President of [REDACTED] I have been directed to write you about a matter raised at our Annual General Meeting held March 16, 2025.

The issue is the constant, often daily burning of vegetation (branches) on the farm of [REDACTED] that borders some of the lots in our strata and affects homes on [REDACTED]

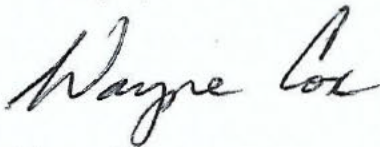
We recognize the importance of farming and we know that burning is allowed between Oct 16 to May 15 however the frequency of the burning, often daily for weeks and months is hard to take. We note that burning is not to exceed 12 days in a year and 6 days in a month. This burning exceeds both. Naturally the burning affects air quality and is a deterrence for residents to be outside. We have even experienced the affects as far away as walking at Island View Beach. On some days the smoke is so thick it's as if the fog rolled in. The smell of smoke infiltrates our homes and irritates our throats and affects breathing. One resident on our street who has COPD can't sleep with their window open at night due to the burning. The fires often burn throughout the night in contravention of the Bylaws and the orange flames are often visible at night. This is becoming more than a nuisance it is a safety concern for possible fire spreading in the woods that border our property which our homes are close to.

I note the Bylaws state that "every reasonable alternative for reducing, reusing, or recycling the vegetative debris is to be used in order to minimize the amount of vegetative debris to be open burned".

We have contacted the Central Saanich Fire Department a couple of times but the burning continues unabated. If it occurred for several days every year and did not occur at night causing a safety concern it would be acceptable but the burning is constant.

This is an appeal for relief to minimize the irritating smoke and notice of our safety concerns that this burning poses for our homes. It is not a burn pile in the middle of a field, it is amongst trees and borders the woods where our common area septic field is located near our homes. If the woods catch fire, our homes are next.

Thank you,



Wayne Cox
[REDACTED]