

For Immediate Release
18-022

July 5, 2018

BC FERRIES ENCOURAGES CUSTOMERS TO PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY

VICTORIA – As hot and dry summer weather conditions approach, BC Ferries is making special public service announcements on board ships that serve the northern and southern areas of Vancouver Island to encourage travellers to practice wildfire safety. The Southern Gulf Islands, Northern Gulf Islands and Northern Vancouver Island areas are all experiencing increasingly dry conditions and are under a wildfire risk.

“Fire safety is so important during the dry season and we are making these announcements to help spread the word on fire safety both on board our vessels and in the communities,” said Corrine Storey, BC Ferries’ Vice President & Chief Operating Officer. “Last summer our province experienced devastating wildfires and we want to help contribute to overall fire safety in the regions we serve.”

With these areas under a wildfire risk, wildfires can start very easily and spread quickly. Some areas prohibit open fires everywhere and work restrictions apply. BC Ferries and local communities are asking travellers and residents to use the utmost caution with cigarette butts, barbeques and all other heat producing items. Travellers are asked to contact the local authorities for specific regulations and requirements.

“We are pleased to partner with BC Ferries again to help spread our fire prevention message to as many visitors to the islands as we can,” said Charlie Boyte of Pender Island Fire Rescue. “BC Ferries’ onboard announcements help make sure the public is aware of the current fire danger. We have also been holding information sessions at Swartz Bay terminal since the summer of 2007 and really appreciate the support from BC Ferries. Please practice fire safety this summer and help protect our beautiful province.”

BC Ferries hosts Pender Island Fire Rescue at the Swartz Bay terminal and they will return for their 11th year this summer. On Friday afternoons during the summer, Pender Island Fire Rescue brings an antique fire truck to the terminal and firefighters provide information to customers heading to the Southern Gulf Islands regarding fire safety and the fire ban.

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