

For Immediate Release
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BC FERRIES ENCOURAGES CUSTOMERS TO PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY

VICTORIA – Hot and dry weather conditions in B.C. are here and 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 under a wildfire risk with increasingly dry conditions.

Wildfires can start easily and spread quickly in areas under wildfire risk. Some regions prohibit open fires everywhere and work restrictions apply. BC Ferries and local communities are asking travellers and residents to be extremely cautious with cigarette butts, barbeques and all other heat-producing items. Travellers are asked to contact the local authorities for specific regulations and requirements.

In addition to the announcements to raise awareness about fire prevention, BC Ferries is hosting Pender Island Fire Rescue at the Swartz Bay terminal for the 12th year this summer. The fire department brings an antique fire truck to the terminal on Friday afternoons during the summer. Firefighters provide information to customers heading to the Southern Gulf Islands about fire safety and the fire ban.

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Quotes, announcement script and photo below.

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Quotes:

“We’re making these announcements to help spread the word on fire safety, both on board our vessels and in the communities we serve, because it’s so important at this time of year. Wildfires devastate our province during the summer and we want to do our part to contribute to overall fire safety in these coastal communities.”

- Corrine Storey, BC Ferries’ Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

“Our partnership with BC Ferries is really important to help spread our fire prevention message to as many visitors to the islands as we can. We appreciate their crews doing the announcements, which help ensure the public is aware of the current fire danger. We enjoy holding information

sessions at Swartz Bay terminal, which we've been doing in partnership with the SGI Fire Departments and CRD Emergency programs since the summer of 2007. Please practice fire safety this summer and help protect our beautiful province.”

- Fire Chief Charlie Boyte, Pender Island Fire Rescue

Announcement script:

“Good Morning/Afternoon passengers. It's very dry out there and the Southern/Northern Gulf Islands are at risk to wildfire. Please check with the local fire department for wildfire prevention restrictions and use extreme caution with cigarette butts, barbecues and all other heat producing items. BC Ferries proudly provides these messages to help protect BC and its beautiful Gulf Islands from wildfires.”

Photo:



Operations Support Assistants Nicholas and Angela are photographed with Engine 32, a 1972 Chevy 6500 fire truck that will be at Swartz Bay terminal along with Pender Island Fire Rescue on Friday afternoons this summer.