VICTORIA, BC — Heading into the BC Day long weekend, Capital Region residents are reminded that beach fires are illegal within the City of Victoria. The Victoria Fire Department and Victoria Police respond to nearly 200 beach fire calls each year; beach fires that put people, property and the environment at risk.

Increased joint patrols by police, fire and bylaw officers is resulting in improved awareness and compliance, and with warm summer temperatures upon us, the hope is to see that continue.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

Fire, police and parks officials will be available to media to outline risks and speak to details of proactive summer patrols

Where: Beach at bottom of stairwell, foot of Dallas Road and Cook Street
When: 1:30 p.m. Thursday, August 2, 2012

Beach fires are often difficult to access due to their location and a small or smoldering fire can be time consuming to put out, tying up emergency responders who may be needed elsewhere in the community. In addition to the immediate fire risk to plants and trees, houses and beach goers, the embers, ash and bottles often left behind from a beach fire create a hazard for future beach users, including children and pets.

An offence under the Parks Regulation Bylaw can result in a fine of up to $2,000.

ADDITIONAL VISUALS: A charred fence and burned plants are evident southwest of Finlayson Point Shelter. Parks staff are also available after media opportunity to accompany reporters to this site.

For More Information:
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