



## CFS FACT SHEET

# Restrictions: What can and can't I do?

Throughout the Fire Danger Season there are strict controls on the lighting of fires and the use of certain tools in open areas.

When a Total Fire Ban day is declared, there are further restrictions on what you can and can't do.

It is essential that you are familiar with the regulations and understand what you can and can't do, whether you are at home, on holiday or visiting friends.

Failure to comply may result in either fines or prosecution.

	Fire Danger Season	Total Fire Ban Day
Do restrictions apply to me if I live in the city or a built-up area?	<b>Yes</b> Urban areas are included in Fire Ban Districts.	<b>Yes</b> Urban areas are included in Fire Ban Districts.
Can I light a fire or burn-off on my property?	<b>No</b> Unless you have a Schedule 9 permit from your local council.	<b>No</b> Fires are NOT permitted.
Can I burn rubbish or grass clippings?	<b>No</b> Unless you have a Schedule 9 permit from your local council.	<b>No</b> Fires are NOT permitted.
You must check with your local council for compliance with Environment Protection Authority restrictions.		
Can I have a fire in a forest reserve?	<b>No</b> No fires, including barbecues and campfires, are permitted in forest reserves between November 30 and April 30 each year. Gas barbecues may be permitted under certain conditions. For enquiries, contact the Forestry Reserve office.	<b>No</b> Fires are NOT permitted.

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Can I have a fire in a National Park Reserve?	<b>No</b> Strict regulations apply in National Parks and Wildlife Reserves. For further information, contact the Park Office.	<b>No</b> Fires are NOT permitted.
Can I use a gas or electric barbecue or cooking appliance?	<b>Yes</b> Providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The barbecue is clear of all flammable vegetation to a distance of at least 4 metres</li> <li>• A person who is able to control the fire is present at the site of the fire until it is extinguished</li> <li>• An appropriate extinguisher is at hand.</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b> If it is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 15 metres of a domestic or commercial premises</li> <li>• On a coastal foreshore</li> </ul> Providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is clear of all flammable vegetation to a distance of at least 4 metres</li> <li>• A person who is able to control the fire is present at the site of the fire until it is extinguished</li> <li>• An appropriate extinguisher is at hand.</li> </ul>
Some local councils allow gas or electric barbecues in caravan parks or cleared picnic areas. Look for signs or contact the council for advice.		
Can I use a solid fuel (wood/charcoal/heatbeads) kettle barbecue?	<b>Yes</b> Provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The barbecue is clear of all flammable vegetation to a distance of at least 4 metres</li> <li>• A person who is able to control the fire is present at the site of the fire until it is extinguished</li> <li>• An appropriate extinguisher is at hand.</li> </ul>	<b>No</b> Unless you have a Schedule 10 permit from your local council. These permits are generally only issued for emergency purposes.
Can I use a pizza oven?	<b>Yes</b> Provided it is a gas or electric – see above for barbecues. Wood fired ovens should comply with CFS Code of Practice and must be in a properly constructed fireplace, have a 4m clearance from flammable vegetation, someone in attendance while it is lit and an adequate extinguishing agent at hand.	<b>No</b> Unless it is gas or electric – see above for barbecues – or you have a Schedule 10 permit from your local council.

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Can I use a chainsaw, brush cutter, mower or slasher?	<p><b>Yes</b> Providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A shovel or rake and portable water spray are at hand.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All engine exhaust exits through the exhaust system, and</li> <li>• The system prevents the escape of burning material</li> <li>• Heated parts of the system are prevented from coming into contact with flammable material / vegetation</li> <li>• The system is in good working order.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yes</b> Providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A shovel or rake and portable water spray are at hand</li> </ul> <p>Additionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All engine exhaust exits through the exhaust system and</li> <li>• The system prevents the escape of burning material</li> <li>• Heated parts of the system are prevented from coming into contact with flammable material / vegetation</li> <li>• The system is in good working order.</li> </ul>
Can I use an angle grinder, welder or any other cutting tool that produces sparks outside?	<p><b>Yes</b> Providing you have a 10-metre cleared space around the area, and water or an extinguisher is at hand. A person able to control the device is present at all times while the activity is being undertaken.</p>	<p><b>No</b> Unless you have obtained a Schedule 10 Permit from your local council.</p>



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	Fire Danger Season	Total Fire Ban Day
Can I have a campfire, bonfire or light a fire for warmth or comfort?	<p><b>Yes</b> Providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fire is in a 30 cm deep trench and no more than one square metre in area</li> <li>You have a 4 metre cleared space around and above the fire</li> <li>A responsible person is in attendance at all times with water and/or an extinguisher</li> </ul> <p>Only charcoal is allowed to be used for comfort fires within a metropolitan area or township boundaries under EPA legislation.</p> <p>Check with your local council before lighting a comfort fire.</p> <p>The use of above ground fires such as chimineas, fire drums, braziers are only permitted with the appropriate permits.</p>	<p><b>No</b> Unless you have obtained a Schedule 10 Permit from your local council.</p>
Can I use fireworks?	<p><b>No</b> Private use of fireworks is banned.</p> <p>Licensed pyrotechnicians may conduct public fireworks displays providing a Schedule 9 permit has been obtained from CFS.</p>	<p><b>No</b> Private use of fireworks is banned.</p> <p>Licensed pyrotechnicians may conduct public fireworks displays providing a Schedule 10 permit has been obtained from CFS.</p>
Can I smoke cigarettes?	<p><b>Yes</b> But you must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smoke within 2 metres of flammable bush or grass outside of a township (penalty: \$1250)</li> <li>Throw a cigarette butt from a vehicle (penalty: \$500)</li> <li>Drop or throw a cigarette butt where it will come into contact with flammable vegetation (penalty: \$500)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yes</b> But you must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smoke within 2 metres of flammable bush or grass outside of a township (penalty: \$1250)</li> <li>Throw a cigarette butt from a vehicle (penalty: \$500)</li> <li>Drop or throw a cigarette butt where it will come into contact with flammable vegetation (penalty: \$500)</li> </ul>

If you are in any doubt, call the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1800 362 361 (TTY 133 677)