

CFS FACT SHEET - RESTRICTIONS (what can I do / what can't I do)



- Regulations have been introduced throughout South Australia to protect lives and property during the bushfire season.
- They apply to everyone, not just those living in bushfire areas.
- It is essential that you are familiar with the regulations and understand what you can and cannot do, whether you are at home, on holiday or visiting a national park.

Once the Fire Danger Season has begun there are strict controls on the lighting of fires and the use of certain tools in the open. The restrictions remain in place until the end of the season.

When a Total Fire Ban Day is declared, there are further restrictions to what you can do.

Over the page is a table answering some of our frequently asked questions about fire restrictions.

Explanation of terms in table:

- * A Schedule 9 or Schedule 10 Permit refers to a permit issued under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005.
Your council fire prevention officer or CFS office can provide further advice.
- ** An engine or vehicle exhaust system complies if:
 - (a) all engine exhaust emitted by the engine or vehicle exits through the system; *and*
 - (b) the system, or a device or devices forming part of the system, is designed to prevent the escape of burning material from the system; *and*
 - (c) the system, or a device or devices forming part of the system, is designed to prevent heated parts of the system from coming into contact with flammable material; *and*
 - (d) the system is in good working order.
- *** "domestic premises" means a building or other structure that is fixed to the ground and connected to a reticulated or stored water supply and that is occupied as a place of residence but does not include a caravan.

If in any doubt, phone the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361



Can I or can't I?	Fire Danger Season		Total Fire Ban
Q Can I light a fire without a permit?	In general the only fires which do not require a permit are fires used for cooking, personal comfort, fires in incinerators, gas fired appliances and gas or electric welding equipment provided they are lit in accordance with the regulations and council restrictions applying to their use.	No	
Q Can I light a fire in the open air for burning off grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation?	No Unless you have obtained a Schedule 9 permit * from your local council.	No	Unless you have obtained a Schedule 10 permit * from your local council.
Q Can I burn off rubbish or grass cuttings?	Yes But only in a properly constructed incinerator# you must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A four metre cleared space around and above • A responsible person must be in attendance at all times with water or an extinguisher • All incinerator doors and openings must be closed and screens and guards in place If you want to burn on the ground you will require a Schedule 9 permit * from you local council.	No	Unless you have obtained a Schedule 10 permit * from your local council. The lighting of incinerators is banned on a Total Fire Ban Day
Q Can I light a campfire, bonfire or light a fire for warmth or comfort? (See special provisions for gas or electric barbeques below)	Yes But only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a properly constructed fireplace; or • In a portable cooking appliance; or • The fire is in a 30cm deep trench and no more than one metre square in area and • You have a four metre cleared space around and above the fire • A responsible person is in attendance at all times • An adequate agent to extinguish the fire is at hand 	No	Unless you have obtained a Schedule 10 permit * from your local council.
Q Can I use a gas or electric barbeque?	Yes Providing you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A four metre cleared space around and above the gas fire • or electric element • A responsible person is in attendance at all times • An adequate agent to extinguish the fire is at hand 	Yes	Providing it is gas or an electric element and used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 15 metres of domestic premises ***, or • On a coastal foreshore Providing you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A four metre cleared area around and above the barbeque • A responsible person is in attendance at all times with water or an extinguisher at hand
Q Can I use a kettle BBQ?	Yes Provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BBQ is clear of all flammable material to a distance of at least 4 metres; • A person who is able to control the fire is present at the site of the fire until it is extinguished; • An appropriate extinguisher is at hand. 	No	A solid fuel burning kettle BBQ (one that uses fuel such as wood, charcoal or heat beads) cannot be used unless you obtain a Schedule 10 permit from your local council. A gas-fired kettle bbq can be used if used within 15 metres of a domestic premises or on a coastal foreshore, providing that: The BBQ is clear of all flammable material to a distance of at least 4 metres; A person who is able to control the fire is present at the site of the fire until it is extinguished; An appropriate extinguisher is at hand.
Q Can I use a pizza oven?	Yes Provided it is a gas or electric - see above for barbeques. If wood fired, it must comply with CFS code of practice for wood fired pizza ovens or obtain a schedule 9 permit* from your local council.	No	Unless it is gas or electric - see above for barbeques - or you have obtained a schedule 10 permit* from your local council

Check with your local council and the Environment Protection Authority, which also have control over the lighting of fires. Some councils have totally prohibited the use of incinerators and open fires for waste disposal on domestic premises.

Can I or can't I?	Fire Danger Season		Total Fire Ban	
Q Can I drive a vehicle off road?	Yes	You can drive a vehicle within 2 metres of flammable bush or grass provided that the engine is fitted with an exhaust system that complies with the requirements listed over page. **	Yes	You can drive a vehicle within 2 metres of flammable bush or grass provided that the engine is fitted with an exhaust system that complies with the requirements listed over page. **
Q Can I have a fire in a National Park Reserve or a forest reserve	Yes	Strict regulations apply to all fires, including barbeques, in government reserves. For further information contact the relevant government office.	No	Fires are NOT permitted
Q Can I use fireworks?	No	Private use of fireworks is banned. Licensed pyrotechnicians can conduct firework displays providing a Schedule 9 permit * has been obtained.	No	Private use of fireworks is banned. Licensed pyrotechnicians can conduct firework displays providing a Schedule 9 permit * has been obtained.
Q Can I use a grinder or welder outside?	Yes	Providing you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A four metre cleared space around and above the area • A responsible person is in attendance at all times the appliance is in use • A portable water spray in good working order is at hand 	No	Unless you have obtained a Schedule 10 permit * from your local council.
Q Can I use a chainsaw, grass trimmer, lawn mower or slasher	Yes	Provided that the engine is fitted with an exhaust system that complies with the requirements listed over page ** and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have a four metre cleared space around the area or • The operator has a shovel or rake and a portable water spray in good working order. 	Yes	Provided that the engine is fitted with an exhaust system that complies with the requirements listed over page ** and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have a four metre cleared space around the area or • The operator has a shovel or rake and a portable water spray in good working order.
Q Can I smoke cigarettes?	Yes	But: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must not smoke within 2 metres of flammable bush or grass outside of a township (penalty: \$1250). • You must not throw a cigarette butt from a vehicle (penalty: \$5000). • You must not drop or throw a cigarette butt where it will come into contact with flammable material (penalty: \$5000). 	Yes	But: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must not smoke within 2 metres of flammable bush or grass outside of a township (penalty: \$1250). • You must not throw a cigarette butt from a vehicle (penalty: \$5000). • You must not drop or throw a cigarette butt where it will come into contact with flammable material (penalty: \$5000).
Q Can I undertake harvesting activities?	Yes	Providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have a shovel or rake and a portable water spray at hand. Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all engine exhaust exits through the exhaust system, and • the system prevents the escape of burning material. • heated parts of the system are prevented from coming into contact with flammable material • the system is in good working order. You should also follow your local Grain Harvesting Code of Practice available from your local council.	Yes	Providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have a shovel or rake and a portable water spray at hand. Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all engine exhaust exits through the exhaust system, and • the system prevents the escape of burning material. • heated parts of the system are prevented from coming into contact with flammable material • the system is in good working order. You should also follow your local Grain Harvesting Code of Practice available from your local council.
Q Can I use a bird scarer in my orchard?	YES	Providing that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the space immediately around and above the appliance is cleared of all flammable material to a distance of at least 4 metres; • the bird scarer is constructed to prevent the escape of fire or burning material; • the bird scarer is in good working order and clean so as to avoid a malfunction that could cause a fire; • the person using the bird scarer takes precautions to ensure that the bird scarer cannot fall over, or be knocked over or otherwise interfered with by animals. 	YES	Providing that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the space immediately around and above the appliance is cleared of all flammable material to a distance of at least 4 metres; • the bird scarer is constructed to prevent the escape of fire or burning material; • the bird scarer is in good working order and clean so as to avoid a malfunction that could cause a fire; • the person using the bird scarer takes precautions to ensure that the bird scarer cannot fall over, or be knocked over or otherwise interfered with by animals