

I can OR I can't

A general guide to what you can and can't do during the Bush Fire Danger Period and Total Fire Ban Days



Bush Fire Danger Period

Total Fire Ban

Can I light an incinerator?



Yes As long as:

- You have a current *Permit to Burn* issued by the NSW Rural Fire Service or NSW Fire and Rescue;
- The fire should be in a properly constructed incinerator that does not allow sparks or burning material to escape;
- There is at least a minimum 5m area clear of any combustible material around the incinerator;
- A person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight;
- A continuous supply of water is available on site;
- You contact your local council to understand if you need approval for smoke and air pollution.

No

- Use of incinerators is banned on days of Total Fire Ban.
- This includes 44 gallon/200L drums or any other item used to burn material.

Can I carry out hot works such as welding, grinding, soldering or gas cutting?



Yes As long as:

- There is a 3m area clear of any combustible material around where you are working;
- You have adequate fire fighting equipment available onsite. You must have:
 - A minimum 16L knapsack spray pump filled with water or
 - A minimum 9L liquid fire extinguisher or
 - A minimum 0.9kg dry powder fire extinguisher.

No

- No general purpose welding, grinding, soldering or gas cutting can be done in the open.
- Note: In exceptional circumstances for essential services (such as public utilities) an exemption may be granted by the NSW RFS Commissioner.*

Can I carry out harvesting operations? This includes driving or using machinery in any grass, crop or stubble land.



Yes As long as:

- Any heated area of the machinery does not come in contact with combustible material;
- The machinery is in a good and serviceable condition;
- The machinery is fitted with an approved spark arrestor;
- You carry fire safety equipment in working order. You must have:
 - A minimum 16L knapsack spray pump filled with water or
 - A minimum 9L liquid fire extinguisher or
 - A minimum 0.9kg dry powder fire extinguisher.

Yes The same requirements as for Bush Fire Danger Period as well as:

- On days of **Severe** Fire Danger the RFS may request harvest operations stop during the heat of the day;
 - On days of **Extreme** Fire Danger the RFS will request harvest operations stop during the heat of the day;
 - On days of **Catastrophic** Fire Danger the RFS will strongly advise harvest operations stop.
- You should also check with your insurance company to understand your policy.*

Can I light a camp fire in a NSW State Forest, National Park or Regional Park ?



No

- There is a Solid Fuel Fire Ban in all State Forests.
- No wood, heat beads or any other solid fuel can be lit.
- There may be Solid Fuel Fire Ban in your local National Park or Regional Park – you should check with your local National Park Office.

No

- Campfires, fires for warmth or personal comfort and solid, gas or liquid fuel barbeques and ovens are all banned.

Can I have a gas/electric BBQ in a NSW State Forest, National Park or Regional Park?



Yes A gas or electric BBQ is allowed as long as:

- You have a cleared area of at least 2m around the BBQ;
- You have an adequate water supply or a fire extinguisher;
- A responsible person is in attendance while the BBQ is alight.

Yes

- But only** for gas or electric BBQs constructed by the NSW State Forests, National Parks or Regional Parks in a specified picnic area.
- You must check with the Parks or State Forest Office prior to using the BBQ.

Can I light a fire in the open air for burning of grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth and other excess vegetation?



Yes As long as:

- You have a current *Permit to Burn* issued by the NSW Rural Fire Service or NSW Fire and Rescue;
- You contact the NSW RFS to understand if you need a *Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate*;
- You contact your local council to understand if you need approval for smoke and air pollution.

No

- No fire is to be lit on days of Total Fire Ban.
- All permits are suspended on days of Total Fire Ban.
- All Hazard Reduction Certificates are suspended on days of Total Fire Ban.

Can I light an open fire in a residential area to burn leaves and other garden refuse?



Yes As long as:

- You have a current *Permit to Burn* issued by the NSW Rural Fire Service or NSW Fire and Rescue;
- The site is clear of all combustible material for 2m;
- You obtain appropriate approval from council for smoke and air pollution.

No

- No fires to be lit on days of Total Fire Ban.
- All permits are suspended on days of Total Fire Ban.

Can I have a BBQ, light a camp fire or a fire for warmth & comfort?



Yes As long as:

- You have a cleared area of at least 2m;
- The fire is on private property;
- The fire and the fuel are the minimum required for the purpose;
- A responsible person is in attendance at all times until the fire is extinguished;
- The fire is fully extinguished before you leave the site;
- You contact your local council to understand if you need approval for smoke and air pollution.

No

- No open fires are to be lit on days of Total Fire Ban.
- All permits are suspended on days of Total Fire Ban.

Yes But only a gas or electric BBQ can be used within 20m of your home as long as:

- You have a cleared area of at least 2m area around the BBQ;
- You have a continuous supply of water available with a hose;
- A responsible person is in attendance at all times while the BBQ is alight.