

CFS FACT SHEET - BURNING OFF



Burning off is only one of a selection of vegetation management practices that are regularly used by the farming community. However it is a high risk farming practice if not conducted properly and should be undertaken with extreme caution.

During the Fire Danger Season:

- Under no circumstances can burning-off be conducted during the fire danger season without a permit obtained from your local council.
- When conducting burn-off's, do not attempt to burn more than can be controlled at any time with the personell or equipment available.
- You **CAN NOT** burn on a **Total Fire Ban day**
- At all times adhere strictly to the conditions set out on your permit. Failure to do this **WILL** result in an expiation or prosecution.

Outside the Fire Danger Season:

Be aware of the local Council and Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) requirements in your area for burning. A permit may be required under the EPA legislation.

Before commencing any burn-off check with the local council and inform your neighbours of your intention to burn.

Always check the weather to ensure the conditions are suitable to burn.

Under some circumstances prosecution can still occur outside the fire danger season.

Safe Practices:

1. If you are planning to burn during the Fire Danger Season, obtain a permit from the Local Council permit officer
2. Prepare clean fuel break at least 4 metres wide around the area to be burnt.
3. Obtain a [weather forecast](#) before a burn-off, especially for local winds. Do not start too early in the day before weather conditions are settled.
4. Give at least adequate notice to neighbours, and local CFS of your intention to burn. This may be specified on the permit.
5. Ensure a sufficient water supply for firefighting is available at all times during and after the burn-off. Provide ample water through tanks and portable pumps set up on trucks or utes for farm firefighting and also for refilling of knapsacks.
6. Ensure a sufficient number of people are present at the site from the time the fire is lit to the time it is completely extinguished.
7. Do not attempt to burn any more area than can be controlled with the people and equipment available.



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8. Use a strip burning method to control the direction and rate of burning to match the wind strength.
9. Where possible burn down hill. Burning up a steep incline even against the wind is always dangerous. Light the fire first on the leeward side of the land to establish a protective break. Burning into the wind will give a slower, safer and cleaner burn. Then light from the windward side of the land. Beware of sudden changes in wind direction and speed. If it changes considerably cease lighting and make every effort to make the perimeter safe. Always make sure the fire edge is blacked out progressively for at least 20 metres into the burnt area.
10. Have immediate access to a UHF CB or mobile phone through out the fire operation to call for assistance if needed.
11. Have a well-maintained firefighting unit at all times in the area where the burning-off is taking place.
12. Constantly patrol the burn-off area for a number of days after, to prevent rekindling as stumps and tree roots can continue to burn underground for many days.

A fire for cooking, personal comfort:

1. The fire is contained in a properly constructed fire place, a portable cooking appliance or a trench at least 30 cm deep.
2. The space immediately around and above the fire is cleared of all flammable material to a distance of at least 4 m.
3. The fire does not occupy an area in excess of 1 m².
4. A person who is able to control the fire is present at the site of the fire from the time it is lighted to the time it is completely extinguished.
5. An appropriate agent adequate to extinguish the fire is at hand.

Burning rubbish and using of incinerators:

Some councils have totally prohibited the use of open fires and incinerators for the disposal of waste on a domestic property.

Check with your local council for all restrictions regarding the burning of waste materials all year round.

A permit is required to burn rubbish or garden refuse on the ground during the fire danger season. The conditions on the permit must be adhered to otherwise an expiation or prosecution may result.

For Further Information:

www.cfs.sa.gov.au or the Bushfire Hotline on 1300 362 361



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