

# CFS FACT SHEET - CHAFF PILE/STUBBLE DUMP BURNING



Chaff Pile and Stubble Dump burning is a common farming practice that is used through the state. During the Fire Danger season this practice poses a risk to fire escape and the following information has been developed as a recommended practice.

## During the Fire Danger Season (Normal Days):

Current legislation allows for broadacre burning and other activities involving fire provided relevant approvals have been obtained. Eg Schedule 9 permits through local council together with any Local Government regulations that may be linked to Environment Protection Regulations 2009 and *Environment Protection Agency Burning Policy- September 2003*.

## Total Fire Ban Days:

Total Fire Ban Days are declared on days of predicted Fire Danger Ratings of Severe, Extreme and Catastrophic. On declared Fire Ban Days fires are not permitted in the open except in exceptional circumstances.

## Safe Practices:

1. A person must not commence burning unless they have obtained all the necessary approvals from local councils including a Schedule 9 Permit.
2. No burning of stubble piles until after dates that are declared locally
3. Chaff piles/stubble dumps must be contained within a 20 metre burnt/cleared area immediately around the pile/dump and a 4 metre ploughed break around the boundary of the relevant paddock.
4. Do not light more piles/dumps than what can be managed with the resources on hand.
5. Before lighting, current and predicted weather conditions must be seriously considered as well as being mindful of wind direction on the day of the burn and the following day so as not to create a smoke hazard to road users or nuisance to townships.
6. A minimum of 3 able bodied persons (or greater number that may be specified on the permit) to control the fire be present at the site of the burn from the time it is lit and until the time it is fully extinguished. (Able bodied person is a person who is competently able to drive a vehicle and operate a pump and hose).
7. A minimum of 1000ltrs of water connected to a working fire-fighting pump and hose must be kept at hand to extinguish the fire. This is to remain at the location for a further 24 hours after the completion of the burn or until the area is ploughed.
8. No piles/dumps to be burnt within 25 metres of a boundary fence.



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9. The holder of a permit must, not more than 7 days, and not less than 2 hours, before the fire is lighted, give notice of his/her intention to light the fire to: To any person who owns, occupies or is in charge of land adjoining the land holding where the relevant land is situated and who resides within 8 kilometres of the relevant land or if it is not necessarily practicable to give such notice, to the person in charge of the nearest police station; and

- If the relevant land is inside (or partially inside) a council area – to an officer of the council for that area no later than 5pm on the day prior to the intended burn, this will also apply to piles/dumps to be lit as early as possible on the day of the intended burn; and
- If the land is within 2 kilometres of a government reserve – to the person in charge of the reserve.

10. No pile/dump shall exceed a height of 500mm and a diameter of 1.5metres

11. The fire must be checked between 2 to 3 hours of completion of the burn (especially if a fire ban has been declared for the following day in which case it must be fully extinguished by midnight) and the following morning to ensure the fire is completely extinguished.

Other relevant CFS Fact Sheets: Permits, Burn offs.

For Further Information:

[www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) or the Bushfire Hotline on 1300 362 361

