

# CFS FACT SHEET - PERMITS



## **Permits are used for controlling high risk activities during the Fire Danger Season.**

A permit to light or maintain a fire in the fire danger season is required when any burning-off is undertaken, the operation of some equipment or machinery and when any other fire is lit on the ground. The exceptions being fires used for cooking and personal comfort, gas fired appliances for cooking purposes or electric welding equipment and gas fires used for other purposes, provided they are used in accordance with the conditions that apply to their use.

## **Note: No fires are permitted on days declared Total Fire Ban Days**

Local Bushfire Management Committees endorse local permit issuing guidelines that will be applied to each permit and must be adhered to by all permit holders. In most circumstances, a permit can be obtained from the local council to where the activity will occur. The Council will need to know who requires the permit, what the activity will be, what equipment will be used, the circumstances surrounding the activity, and the location that the activity will be conducted.

The issuing of a permit is not automatically granted and may be refused by the Authorised Officer. The Authorised Officer will assess the risk associated and may place additional conditions on a permit to ensure the safety of the community.

All permits are issued to a person who is ultimately responsible for the activity that will be occurring, and it is this person who will be prosecuted in the event of any breach of the permit conditions. Other persons present can also be expiated or prosecuted depending on the circumstances.

## **Obtaining a permit:**

A permit can be requested and issued personally, by telephone, radio, facsimile or by email. The Authorised Officer will assess the application and inform you of a permit number and conditions. A copy of the permit will be sent to you if the permit is issued verbally or by radio. The conditions on the permit must be adhered to as any breach will result in an expiation notice being issued or prosecution.

## **Permit conditions:**

The conditions listed on the permit must be adhered to at all times. In particular the holder of the permit must notify the persons listed on the permit not less than 2 hours before the fire is lit or the intention to light up. Normally notification will include, all adjoining neighbours, the local council, the person in charge of any nearby Government reserve and the local CFS Brigade. The Authorised Officer may vary these conditions as required.

## **A fire for cooking, personal comfort: (Not Total Fire Ban Days)**

A permit is not required for a cooking fire or personal comfort fire provided that:

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 m<sup>2</sup>



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4. A person who is able to control the fire is present at the site of the fire from the time it is lit to the time it is completely extinguished.
5. An appropriate agent adequate to extinguish the fire is at hand.

This means that fires in drums for personal comfort require a permit.

## **Burning rubbish and using of incinerators:**

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

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.

## **Other CFS Fact sheets:**

- Burning Off
- Burning Piles.

**All Fires on a Total Fire Ban Day require a Schedule 10 Permit.**

## **For Further Information:**

[www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) or the Bushfire Hotline on 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)

