

using fire outdoors



a guide to using fire safely
outdoors, at home, in the
bush or on holiday



























Every year a small number of fires costs the Tasmanian community dearly. Some of these fires escape from smaller fires that were lit for good reasons. If people are more careful with fire the loss and damage to possessions, property and the environment can be greatly reduced. This guide provides simple advice on what everyone needs to do to have safer fires outdoors. Some restrictions on lighting fires apply all year round, and there are additional precautions that must be taken during Fire Permit Periods and on Days of Total Fire Ban.

your fire is your responsibility



fire use checklist

		at all times	fire-permit period	total fire ban
electric BBQ				 If cleared around for 1 metre
gas BBQ				 If cleared around for 1 metre
incinerator			 If cleared around for 3 metres	
campfires			 If cleared around for 3 metres	
burning heaps			 If exceeding 1 cubic metre	
burning land			 If exceeding 1 cubic metre	

Subject to Environmental Regulations & Local Government By-Laws & any restrictions in parks and reserves.

at all times

fire permit periods

A fire must not be:

- Allowed to escape from your land; or
- Lit and allowed to endanger land other than yours, including public land.

The fires below **must comply** with the following:

Campfires, Barbecues and Incinerators must:

- Be at least 3 metres away from overhanging branches, stumps, logs and trees and other flammable material;
- Not be lit on peat soils or grassed sand dunes; and
- Have someone stay with the fire until it is completely extinguished.

You **should also ensure** that you:

- Do not burn man-made materials such as tyres, plastics and paints;
- Comply with any Environmental Regulations or Council By-laws which may have additional restrictions for incinerators and heap fires;
- Obey all signs in national parks and other reserves that may restrict where camp fires may be lit;
- Only burn domestic garden refuse in incinerators or heaps. Incinerators should be constructed to prevent the escape of burning material and sparks; and
- Have enough water close to the fire to be able to put it out or prevent it from spreading.

Register the fire by calling freecall 1800 000 699

By telling the Tasmania Fire Service about your fire you help prevent false alarms.

The Tasmania Fire Service may declare a Fire Permit Period for all, or parts of the State when the danger of bushfire is considered high. This is to coordinate and monitor controlled burning of vegetation and minimise the risk of fire spreading.

During the Fire Permit Period, fires are not banned but are allowed where there are good opportunities to safely use fire for land management purposes. However conditions are placed on the use of certain fires in the open.

Permit periods are usually in force during the dry summer period from November to March although this will vary from year to year depending on the dryness of the vegetation and the fire danger.

When do I need a **fire permit**?

You need a fire permit for the burning of vegetation at all times during a declared Fire Permit Period regardless of the weather conditions. You do not need a permit for barbecues, campfires or incinerators provided you comply with the conditions associated with their use. To get a permit you simply have to contact your local Fire Permit Officer (Permits are free).

What's in a **fire permit**?

Your permit will contain conditions to increase the safety of the fire. You may only be allowed to burn during specified weather, and with certain equipment available. You will need to notify the Tasmania Fire Service when you intend to light your fire and may also be required to notify your neighbours.

How do I **contact** my local fire permit officer?

**Call the Tasmania Fire Service on:
freecall 1800 000 699**

What happens if my fire gets **out of control**?

Contact the Tasmania Fire Service by dialling 000.

This is the quickest way to get local assistance to bring your fire under control.

As long as you have met all the conditions on your permit and have taken all reasonable steps to keep the fire on your property, you will not be liable for any damage caused by the fire.

Subject to Environmental Regulations & Local Government By-Laws & any restrictions in parks and reserves.

total fire bans



The Tasmania Fire Service can declare a Total Fire Ban on days when the danger of fire is extremely high and when fires would be expected to develop rapidly and to be extremely difficult to control.

Usually a Total Fire Ban lasts for 24 hours.

Days of Total Fire Ban are advertised in daily newspapers, on television and radio and on the TFS website.

On Days of Total Fire Ban, all outdoor fires are banned except electric stoves and barbecues, and gas stoves and barbecues provided they are cleared of flammable material for at least 1 metre. Other barbecues and portable stoves including those that use wood, charcoal or other solid or liquid fuel are banned. Work practices such as grinding, welding and cutting metal in the open are not permitted.

The use of machinery for harvesting etc, may be subject to restrictions or prohibited on the declaration of a total fire ban. All fire permits are automatically suspended.

Remember

- **Your fire is your responsibility**
- **Fires must not be left unattended at any time of year**
- **To report a fire dial 000**



For a copy of the free DVD
Bushfire: prepare to survive
please call **1800 000 699**
or visit the website:
www.fire.tas.gov.au

For more information about:

- Fire permits
- Days of Total Fire Ban
- Preparing you and your home for bushfire and other fire safety information visit our web site **www.fire.tas.gov.au** or freecall **1800 000 699**.
- Environmental Regulations - **www.environment.tas.gov.au** or **03 6233 4028**
- Local Government By Laws - **www.lgat.tas.gov.au** or **03 6233 5966**



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