



Tasmania Fire Service

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

2015-17

# USING FIRE *outdoors*

**SOAK IT. STIR IT. SOAK IT AGAIN.**  
Make sure your campfire is out.

**YOUR FIRE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**

At all times register your fire by freecalling 1800 000 699

# Fire use checklist

# Fire permit periods

		Fire permit periods	Total fire bans	All other times
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		permit required		✓

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

The Tasmania Fire Service may declare a Total Fire Ban on days when the danger of fire is very high, when fires are likely to develop rapidly and be difficult to control. Usually a Total Fire Ban lasts for 24 hours.

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

Subject to Environmental

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.

# 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 one 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 triple zero 000**

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 [fire.tas.gov.au](http://fire.tas.gov.au) or freecall **1800 000 699**.
- Environmental Regulations - [environment.tas.gov.au](http://environment.tas.gov.au) or **03 6233 4028**.
- Local Government By Laws - [lgat.tas.gov.au](http://lgat.tas.gov.au) or **03 6233 5966**.

# All other times

## A fire must not be:

- Allowed to escape from your land.
- 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 three metres away from overhanging branches, stumps, logs and trees and other flammable material.
- Not be lit on peat soils or grassed sand dunes.
- 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.
- Have enough water close to the fire to be able to put it out or prevent it from spreading.

### Register your fire by freecalling 1800 000 699

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

al Regulations, Local Government By-Laws and any restrictions in parks and reserves.

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

Contact the Tasmania Fire Service by dialling triple zero 000 or if a TTY user call 106.

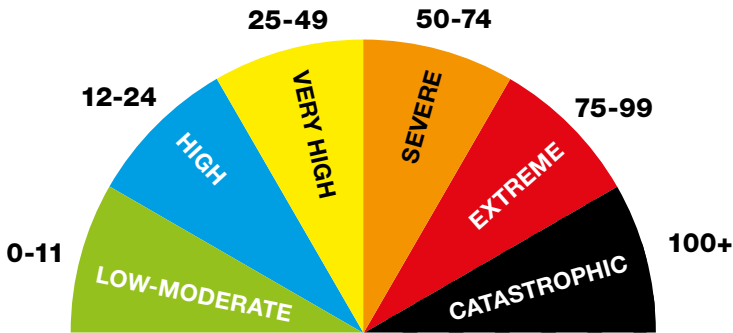
This is the quickest way to get local assistance to bring your fire under control.

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.



# Fire Danger Rating

The Fire Danger Rating (FDR) warns of the potential impact of a bushfire on any given day, based on forecast weather conditions. This summer the Fire Danger Rating will be widely publicised.



FDR	RECOMMENDED ACTION
<b>CATASTROPHIC</b> FDR 100+	Leaving early is the safest option for your survival – regardless of any plan to stay and defend.
<b>EXTREME</b> FDR 75-99	Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Only stay if your home is situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire and you can actively defend it.
<b>SEVERE</b> FDR 50-74	Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
<b>VERY HIGH</b> FDR 25-49	Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
<b>HIGH</b> FDR 12-24	Know where to get more information and monitor the situation for any changes.
<b>LOW-MODERATE</b> FDR 0-11	Know where to get more information and monitor the situation for any changes.

For a copy of the free DVD **Bushfire Prepare to Survive** please call 1800 000 699 or visit the website: [fire.tas.gov.au](http://fire.tas.gov.au)



Please visit our website or call 1800 000 699 for more information on:

- Preparing a Bushfire Survival Plan.
- Preparing yourself and your home for a bushfire.
- Fire resisting garden plants.
- Using fire outdoors.
- Fire permits.
- Total fire bans.
- Bushfires burning in Tasmania (or listen to local ABC Radio).



Use water to make sure your fire is completely extinguished. Do not use soil. Fires can still smoulder under soil and can stay hot for more than eight hours.

[fire.tas.gov.au](http://fire.tas.gov.au)



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*While the State Fire Commission has made every effort to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained in this booklet, the State Fire Commission does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or relevance to the reader's purpose, of the information contained in this booklet and those reading it for whatever purpose are advised to verify its accuracy and to obtain appropriate professional advice. The State Fire Commission, its officers, employees and agents do not accept any liability, however arising, including liability for negligence, for any loss or damage resulting from the use of, or reliance upon, the information contained in this booklet. © Copyright Tasmania Fire Service 2016*



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In an emergency dial triple zero 000 or if a TTY user call 106



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