

# INFORMATION FOR RURAL LANDHOLDERS AND FARMERS

## FIRE PERMITS



Fire Permits help ensure fire is used safely and minimises the danger to you, your property and the community.

Fire Permits ensure agencies, such as the NSW Rural Fire Service, know when and where landholders intend to burn, to ensure adequate and appropriate measures are in place, and so that fires remain under control.

If a Total Fire Ban is in place, you cannot burn without an exemption.

### WHEN ARE FIRE PERMITS REQUIRED?

- During the Bush Fire Danger Period (1 October to 31 March but this can vary from season to season)
- If your burn is likely to endanger a building (year round)
- If the proposed burn is in a Fire and Rescue NSW district (year round)

**A Fire Permit is valid for a maximum of 21 days from date of issue.**

### WHEN ARE FIRE PERMITS NOT REQUIRED?

Fire permits are not required for small recreational fires used to cook or barbeque in the open or for reasons such as camping, picnicking or scouting, provided that:

- The fire is in a permanently constructed fireplace
- Clear all combustible materials at least 2 meters away from the fire
- The fire is completely extinguished before leaving

Exemptions from holding a fire permit may apply depending on the purpose of the fire, for example a cooking or ceremonial fire, providing you comply with certain conditions. Visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

## FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Other restrictions, approvals and/or permits may apply in certain council areas, even when the Bush Fire Danger Period has not been declared.

If your burn is for bush fire hazard reduction purposes, you can obtain an environmental approval (Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate) free of charge from the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS). This approval may also cover the clearing of vegetation for bush fire hazard reduction purposes.

If your burn is not for bush fire hazard reduction purposes (for example agricultural burning or burning to remove or clear vegetation), there are two primary types of environmental approval that you may need an approval for:

- Burning native vegetation
- Burning in the open

Fire Permits are automatically suspended during:

- Total Fire Bans
- No Burn Days

Fire Permits are **typically** suspended at a Fire Danger Rating of High or above.

Fire Permits can also be suspended at any time due to local conditions or ongoing fire activity.

Landholders should consult with NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Environmental Protection Agency (NSW EPA) and/or Local Council for further information prior to using fire on your property.

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## SAFE BURNING CHECKLIST

### BEFORE

- Check you are allowed to burn in your area
- Contact your nearest NSW RFS Fire Control Centre, Fire and Rescue NSW station or Local Council to confirm

### GET A FIRE PERMIT

- They are free and easy to get. Contact your nearest NSW RFS Fire Control Centre or Fire and Rescue NSW station at least 24 hours before you plan to burn

### NOTIFY YOUR NEIGHBOURS

- You must notify all adjoining neighbours at least 24 hours before you intend to burn

### ON THE DAY

- Check and monitor weather conditions
- Check the Fire Danger Rating at: [rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr), on the Fires Near Me mobile app or on the roadside signs.
- Check if permits have been suspended due to a Total Fire Ban, No Burn Day or if the Fire Danger Rating is above High.

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For more information on what you can do to prepare for bush fire this season:



**NSW Rural Fire Service Website**  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)



**Your nearest NSW RFS  
Fire Control Centre:**



**Bush Fire Information Line**  
1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)