

Fire Permit Periods



The Tasmania Fire Service may declare a Fire Permit Period for all, or parts of the State when the danger of vegetation fire 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 sue 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: 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 your fire on your property, you will not be liable for any damage caused by the fire.



No Fires permitted

Permit Required



	Subject to <u>Environmental Regulations</u> and <u>Local Government</u> <u>By-Laws</u>					
	electric BBQ	gas BBQ	incinerator	campfires	burning heaps	burning land
at all times	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
fire permits	✓	✓	✓ If cleared around for 3 metres	✓ If cleared around for 3 metres	permit required If exceeding 1 cubic metre	permit required
total fire bans	✓ If cleared around for 3 metres	✓ If cleared around for 3 metres	no fire	no fire	no fire	no fire



Backyard Burning

State, Council and Tasmania Fire Service Regulations and Permit Requirements



Environment & Development Department
Sorell Council
47 Cole Street, Sorell Tas 7172

Ph: 03 6269 0000
Fax: 03 6269 0014

Email: sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au
Web: www.tas.gov.au

Regulations for backyard burning—from *Improving Air Quality* by the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment

Why is there a need to control smoke from backyard burning?

Smoke from backyard burning can contribute to excessive levels of fine particles in the air which are known to increase the incidence of heart and respiratory diseases. Smoke can also be an environmental nuisance for neighbours. The regulations will help to reduce these effects.

What are the restrictions?

Backyard burning in the open or using an incinerator is banned on all blocks of less than 2,000 square metres in area, throughout the State. Most urban residential blocks are less than 2,000 square metres.

If my block is greater than 2,000 square metres can I still burn?

While the regulations do not prohibit burning on blocks 2,000 square metres or larger, they specify the types of waste or fuel that may be burnt on blocks of any size.

The burning of treated or painted wood, plastics, rubber and other unsuitable materials is prohibited. The requirements of the *Fire Service Act 1979* also apply to larger blocks.

Are barbecues included under these restrictions?

Barbecues are not subject to the prohibition on backyard burning but they are subject to the same visible smoke restrictions as wood heaters. A separate pamphlet is available on heater smoke emissions.

How much can I be fined if my backyard burning breaches the regulations?

A council officer can issue an infringement notice, or you may be prosecuted. An infringement notice is an on-the-spot fine of 5 penalty units*.

The maximum penalty for backyard burning will be \$5000* if the matter is taken to court but it is expected the court action will only be taken if other approaches consistently fail.

Is the community patrolled and fines issued for illegal backyard burning?

Formal warnings will usually be the first step, with formal action being taken only where people persist in backyard burning that breaches the regulations. The approach to enforcing the regulations is a matter for the individual councils to decide. In an area where there is a particular problem with air quality, the council might conduct patrols.

**Penalties may be subject to variation or indexation.*

More information

For more information on what is and isn't permitted as well as fire bans and permit requirements, please visit: <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/Show?pagelD=colFireOutdoor>

Information taken from the Tasmania Fire Service website at www.fire.tas.gov.au



Fire Hazards in the Sorell Municipality

Every year Council is faced with the time consuming and costly task of inspecting and arranging for the removal of fire hazards throughout the Municipal Area.

Whilst Council is aware that material on the ground may not burn at present, the purpose of Council notices is to remind property owners of the need to ensure that flammable material is removed before it dries out and becomes a threat to neighbouring properties.

Property Owners Action - Council urges you to reduce the danger which could arise from growth on your property and to keep that land clear from undergrowth until at least the end of March next year.

Council's Action - When fire hazards are confirmed Council has no alternative but to issue abatement notices in accordance with Division 6 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Failure to comply with abatement notices will result in the land being compulsorily cleared at the owner's expense.

Please Note - All enquiries should be directed to Council's Municipal Inspector, Mr Darren Carter during normal working hours on **6269 0000**.