



What to consider before open air burning

Fire Services Victoria

Fire Services Victoria must be notified of any open air burn all year round, regardless of if a permit is required, or not.

- You must register online at least two hours before igniting a fire on the [Fire Permits](#) Victoria website
- Alternatively, if you wish to commence the burn immediately, or cannot access the online form, you can register by calling Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) on 1800 668 511

During the declared Fire Danger Period, or on Total Fire Ban Days, you must have a written permit from Fire Services Victoria to have an open air fire when it exceeds the requirements set out by the CFA.

Refer to the CFA [Can I or Can't I?](#) for details of specific requirements.

Council permits

A council permit is required when burning occurs outside the Fire Danger Period and depends on the size of the fire and the size of the property where the proposed burn will occur.

- **Property less than one hectare:**
A permit is required regardless of size of fire

- **Property greater than one hectare:** A permit is required if fuel load has dimensions greater than 4 metres wide, 4 metres long and 3 metres high

Permit not required where the burn is for primary production or broad acre farming purposes.

Lighting a fire

The following steps **must** be undertaken when lighting a fire on private land, regardless of the size of the fire or the property or whether a permit is required or not.

- The fire must be located at least three meters from the property boundary or any building
- The area must be clear of flammable material for 3 metres around the fire
- A fire must not be lit when the wind speed is greater than 15kph
- The fire must be supervised by an adult at all times with a container of at least 9 litres of water or a charged hose prepared to extinguish the fire if required
- Neighbours must be notified at least 24 hours prior to the fire being lit
- Fire Services Victoria must be notified

The following materials **must not** be burnt:

- Manufactured chemicals
- Rubber or plastic
- Petroleum, oil or any derivative thereof
- Paint or any receptacle which contains or contained paint
- Food waste, fish or other offensive or noxious matter
- Explosive materials
- Any container which may cause an explosion
- Green waste or garden refuse including leaves
- Cardboard or newspaper
- Any other material deemed offensive or dangerous by an Authorised Officer of the Council

The use of incinerators is banned at all times in the City of Greater Bendigo.

How to apply

- During the Fire Danger Period, apply through [Fire Permits Victoria](#)
- Outside the Fire Danger Period, apply to Council [online](#) or by completing the [permit application form](#)

Permits are free of charge.

** Infringements may be issued to persons not complying with the relevant local law, or lighting a fire where the appropriate permit has not been granted.*