

Fire Safety Bans

When a Total Fire Ban or a Harvest or Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared, it is illegal to light a fire or carry out any activity that is likely to cause a fire.

The responsibility remains with the individual to be aware of any bans in place and to ensure that the activity will not cause a fire.

Total Fire Bans are declared by the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) during times of extreme weather conditions or when the possibility of widespread bushfires may impact heavily on resources.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans are declared by the Local Authority and limits the operation of machinery and plant equipment likely to cause a fire when operated over or near flammable material, dry grass, stubble or bush.

Similarly, conducting 'hot works' like operating abrasive cutters, welders or any other activity in the open air that may cause sparks and ignite vegetation are also not permitted during a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban.

When a ban has been declared **you must not:**



- Light a fire in the open air.
- Cook outside in the open air using an open fire (this includes under verandas and patios).
- Move vehicles or plant equipment in bushland or paddocks (see necessary agricultural activities*)
- Harvesting (see necessary agricultural activities*)
- Undertake 'hot works' such as welding, grinding or activity that may cause a spark or ignition unless you have an exemption issued by DFES.
- Use fireworks or hot air balloons.

When a ban has been declared **you may:**



- Use a gas cooker or barbeque with an enclosed flame on your own property or in a public recreational area designated for that purpose.
- Undertake essential feeding and watering of stock.
- Use mowers, chainsaws, line and hedge trimmers and similar machinery in built up urban environments which are clear of flammable materials or surrounded by green grass etc.
- Conduct any work that has been covered by a current and relevant exemption, provided that all conditions on that exemption are adhered to.

***Necessary Agricultural Activities** are activities that cannot be postponed until after a Total Fire Ban ends without consequence to livestock or crops. These activities are permitted to continue with caution during a Total Fire Ban but harvesting of crops or movement across paddocks are not permitted if a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared.

During a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban, vehicles may be used or operated on or across a paddock only if it is for the prevention of an immediate or serious risk to a person or livestock, and only if reasonable precautions have been taken for that activity to prevent causing a bushfire.

Total Fire Ban Exemptions may be granted if you are able to demonstrate you are taking adequate precautions to prevent the ignition or spread of a fire, and you have suitable personnel and resources to extinguish a fire that may start. Exemptions for Total Fire Bans must be obtained from DFES in writing and are specific to activities, times and locations.