

Burning Off Guidelines



These guidelines apply for open air burning off on private properties that are not located in a built up area.

The guidelines are **not** valid during the declared **Fire Danger Period** or on days of **Total Fire Ban**. The Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667 can provide information on fire restrictions applying during these periods. Please note: Bass Coast is in the Central Fire District.

If you are on a property outside a built up area and are not able to comply with these guidelines, please contact Council's community safety team to discuss applying for a permit. If these guidelines can be met, then no permit is required.

No burning off or incinerators are allowed in residential areas.

This document must be read in conjunction with Council's Local Law No. 1 'Neighbourhood Amenity' July 2012. Part 5 – Your Property, Trees and Animals, Section 32 Burning of Materials states:

A Person must not burn, or cause, or allow to be burnt, in the open in any part of the Municipal District any offensive materials; or any materials that may cause offensive emissions of smoke and odour to enter any neighbouring property.

Penalty: 15 Penalty Units

Guidelines

1. Notice must be given to adjoining land owners/occupiers 24 hours prior to the burn.
2. Notice must be given 2 hours prior to light up by telephoning CFA VicFire on 1800 668 511.
3. If the burn is on land adjoining State Forest, National Park or Protected Public Land, notification must be made at least 2 hours prior to the burn to the DSE District Duty Officer on (03) 5683 9004 or by fax to (03) 5682 2235.
4. If the area to be burnt abuts a residential area, Council's community safety team must be contacted 2 hours prior to light up on 1300 BCOAST (226 278). No fees apply.
5. Before commencing burning operations:
 - check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and two days afterwards. If you are burning from the 1 November to 30 April, the Fire Danger Rating on the day of the burn and the following two days must be Low to Moderate. During this period, you can find out the Fire Danger Rating by calling the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.
 - check the fuel moisture conditions
 - establish a fire break of no less than 3 meters cleared of all flammable material
 - consider the safety of the burn location taking in to account power lines, other hazards and the impacts that smoke may have on surrounding areas
6. Every reasonable precaution must be taken not to burn the following prohibited material(s):
 - manufactured chemicals
 - rubber or plastic
 - electronic equipment and recyclable materials (excluding timber)

- petroleum, oil or petroleum-based products
 - paint or receptacle which contains or which contained paint
 - manufactured chemicals or pressurised cans
 - food waste, fish or other offensive or noxious matter
 - any other material an authorised officer or a delegated officer reasonably believes is an offensive material
7. Any of the above materials contained in Guideline 6 that catch alight must be extinguished immediately.
8. Until any fire lit has been completely extinguished:
- the perimeter of the burning area must be regularly patrolled
 - the fire must be monitored to make sure smoke is not impacting on neighbours or is not causing a traffic hazard; if this is found to be the case, all fires must be extinguished as soon as possible
 - an adequate number of adults and adequate fire suppression equipment or appliances must be present
9. It is recommended, where practicable, any fire must be extinguished before sunrise on the day following the day on which the fire was lit.
10. Pile Fire Burning
- **on properties up to 2 hectares** - The maximum area to be burnt at any one time is a ground area of three (3) metres long by three (3) metres wide. The height of the material to be burnt cannot exceed three (3) metres in height. The fire once commenced, can have additional material to be burnt added to the fire, but at no time can the fire exceed the area and height restrictions as detailed above. More than one fire is permitted to be alight at any one time as long as there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burns safely and effectively if required.
 - **on properties over 2 hectares** - The maximum area to be burnt at any one time is a ground area of six (6) metres long by six (6) metres wide. The height of the material to be burnt cannot exceed three (3) metres in height. The fire once commenced, can have additional material to be burnt added to the fire, but at any time the fire cannot exceed the area and height restrictions as detailed above. More than one fire is permitted to be alight at any one time as long as there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burns safely and effectively if required.
11. Linear Fire Burning
- Where a rural farming property manager, as part of their farm management practices, wishes to undertake a linear fire burn, being for the creation of a fire break along their property boundaries or the removal of crops / grass or stubble, with a slow burn type of operation, the property manager must ensure Guidelines 8 & 9 are followed.
12. Disease Control Burns
- For fires relating to disease control with dead stock, please contact Council's environmental health unit on 1300 BCOAST (226 278). No fees apply.