

What you can and can't do on a Total Fire Ban day

What is a Total Fire Ban?

We declare a Total Fire Ban on a day when a fire is most likely to spread rapidly (because of extreme fire weather) or if there are already widespread fires and we don't have the resources to fight more. The lighting of open-air fires or any other activity in the open air that is likely to cause a fire is banned.

Total Fire Bans affect everyone

Every Western Australian is affected including farmers, campers, construction workers and residents in both urban and rural areas. So, make sure you carefully read this document, and if you need more information or advice call the TFB Hotline on **1800 709 355**.

There are penalties if you ignore a Total Fire Ban

If you ignore a Total Fire Ban, you may receive an infringement of \$1,000. And if it's a serious breach, you may receive a penalty of \$25,000 and/or be jailed for 12 months.



Don't put people's lives
and properties in danger.



Anyone who lives in WA

Do not throw a burning cigarette, cigar or match into an area that may catch alight, including from a vehicle.

In open-air, you cannot:

- Light, maintain or use a fire (even when camping)
- Burn leaves, garden waste or grass cuttings
- Use an incinerator
- Grind, weld, solder, gas cut or use any other type of 'hot work'
- Use fireworks
- Operate a hot-air balloon
- Use a BBQ that uses solid fuel (see BBQ section for more)
- Use an outdoor wood-fired pizza oven or stove

Some industries and activities can be given an exemption, to carry out certain activities. And some activities being carried out by industry, business and public authorities are allowed, as long as certain conditions are adhered to.

If you want more information regarding these activities, and the conditions required to carry them out on a TFB, visit dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans

In any area where there is bush, crops, pasture and stubble, you cannot use equipment powered by an internal combustion engine such as:

- A chainsaw or lawn mower
- A plant trimmer or grass trimmer
- Bobcats, excavators, bulldozers (or any other similar machines)
- A welder
- A car
- A tractor
- A motorbike
- An angle grinder
- A quad bike
- A dune buggy
- A generator

This includes if you are inside a shed with one or more open sides.

You can undertake these activities inside your shed if it is fully enclosed on all sides (i.e. has a door, four walls and a roof), so sparks don't blow outside.

Undercover areas such as patios, pergolas and huts that are open or partially open, are considered to be open-air.



Barbecuing or cooking outdoors

You cannot use any BBQ or cooker (including Webers) that requires solid fuel:


- Wood
- Charcoal
- Heat beads

You can use a gas or electric BBQ or cooker, if:

- It's a permanent BBQ in a public picnic area
- You use it in a public space within the sign posted BBQ area
- It's at or in your home
- It has an enclosed flame
- You clear all material that could burn within a 5m radius around it.

** DFES recommends you have an immediate water supply near by.

** DFES recommends the activity is always attended by a responsible adult.



Short green grass less than 5cm in height and reticulated gardens are not considered to be flammable.

Looking after your farm

The immediate welfare of your animals, such as urgent watering and feeding, has an automatic exemption.



If you're a farmer, you can:

- Harvest your crop
- Feed or water your stock in a paddock
- Operate or move an aeroplane or helicopter

This is assuming that a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has not been declared by your local government. You must also check with your local government if you need any fire suppression equipment.

If you conduct any of the above activities, you must ensure:

- Your vehicle is mechanically sound
- The exhaust system is in good condition (free of gas leaks and/or has a well-maintained spark arrester)
- That all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent a bushfire starting

Total Fire Ban and a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban

If both a Total Fire Ban **and** a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban are in place, you cannot use a vehicle, equipment or machinery that's powered by an internal combustion engine on land covered by bush, crop, pasture or stubble.

Aeroplanes and helicopters must also have:

- A firebreak around the area of the landing ground
- At least 150L of water in a suitable container and a fire extinguisher at the landing site

We can cancel bans if weather conditions improve. If you think that might be the case, just check emergency.wa.gov.au

Check if there's a Total Fire Ban in place today by:

- Visiting the Emergency WA website (emergency.wa.gov.au)
- Calling 13 DFES (133 337)
- Calling the TFB Hotline **1800 709 355**
- Following DFES on Twitter
- Following DFES on Facebook
- Listening to ABC local radio and other media outlets
- Looking out for Main Roads WA Variable Message Signs
- Looking for local government roadside Fire Danger Rating signs

For more information on Total Fire Bans, visit dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans

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