

ACTIVITIES: Safe burning of on-farm waste



Purpose

To ensure on-farm waste requiring burning is conducted in a safe manner to minimise the risk of injury to the worker.

Hazard Analysis

HAZARDS

- Burning of unsuitable waste
- Burning in high fire risk conditions
- Use of inappropriate accelerant
- Burning without an extinguisher
- Burning large quantities
- Burning alone
- Burning without a fire break material.

RISK CONTROL MEASURES

- Burn organic waste such as dry branches, or paper/cardboard waste if recycling or re-use is not possible. Mulching or recycling are the preferred options and must be considered before burning. Do not burn inorganic, liquid or hazardous waste such as tyres, plastic, oil.
- Check weather conditions for the day and a few days afterwards. Don't burn in High Fire Danger or in the Fire Danger Season without a permit. If in doubt, check with local country fire authority/service.
- Wear appropriate PPE. Do not use petrol as an accelerant. Use firelighters wherever possible. If diesel is necessary, use only under strict supervision.
- Ensure adequate access to water supply. Do not burn in remote areas without a water or spray cart filled with an adequate water supply to extinguish and control fire if needed.
- Burn manageable quantities of waste. Split into smaller lots if necessary.
- Don't burn alone. Ensure there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively. Carry a mobile phone or UHB.
- Establish a fire break with no less than 3M cleared of all flammable

ACTIVITIES: Safe burning of on-farm waste

Wear this PPE (or equivalent) before burning

**A wide brimmed hat or hard hat**

A hat can stop embers from dropping onto your head or down the back of your shirt.

**Glasses or goggles**

Eye coverings can protect your eyes against any smoke, embers and debris that may be in the air.

**Gloves**

Gloves can protect your hands from radiant heat, embers and debris that may be in the air or on anything you pick up around your yard when protecting your property.

**A mask or cloth (non-synthetic)**

Covering your nose and mouth, may protect you from inhaling smoke, ash and embers.

**A long-sleeved shirt made from thick cotton or wool is ideal (eg cotton drill work shirt)**

A shirt can stop embers from burning your skin and help protect you from radiant heat and debris.

**A pair of heavy cotton pants, such as denim jeans, oil free drill pants or cotton overalls**

Long pants can stop embers from burning your skin and help protect you from radiant heat and debris.

**Sturdy leather work boots or shoes along with a pair of woollen or cotton socks**

Sturdy leather footwear can stop embers from burning your skin, help protect you from radiant heat and debris.

ACTIVITIES: Safe burning of on-farm waste

Certificates, licences, or training required to burn waste

- Burning permit may be required depending on what state you are in, see *'Additional information regarding fire permits'* on page 4.
- Manager/supervisor instruction.

Procedure

- **STOP and re-assess;** Have you have considered recycling or re-use options before burning? Only burn if recycling or re-using is not possible.
- Ensure weather conditions have been checked for the day of the burn and the following couple of days.
- Obtain a permit if necessary, and follow the guidelines or conditions stated on the permit. See *'Additional information regarding fire permits'* on page 4.
- Establish a fire break of at least 3 metres around the burn site. Ensure flammable materials are kept well away.
- Wear appropriate PPE before undertaking any burning activities. If you don't have the appropriate PPE available, ask your manager/supervisor to provide.
- Ensure you are not burning alone. If necessary, wait for a manager, supervisor, co-worker or the country fire authority/service members to be present. Carry a mobile phone or UHB.
- Ensure you have adequate water supply to control and extinguish the fire, i.e., shed hose or spray cart filled with water and hose attachment.
- Place firelighters under the waste pile and light. If continuously going out, conditions may be too windy - **STOP and re-assess;** You may need to wait for suitable conditions.
- If firelighters are not appropriate for the task and diesel **must** be used as an accelerate, ensure you have adequate instruction and supervision before use.
- Do not use petrol as an accelerant or a mix of petrol and diesel, as spillages or incorrect mixtures can cause a fire explosion - **STOP and re-assess;** You may need to abandon this activity and dispose of waste using an alternative method.
- Ensure the fire is fully extinguished before leaving the site. If extinguished, a fire burn site should not radiate heat or be smoking. Monitor the fire burn site throughout the day to ensure it is extinguished properly or further extinguishing may be required.
- *First Aid information for burns, see page 5.*

ACTIVITIES: Safe burning of on-farm waste

Additional information regarding fire permits

Victoria

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-permits/fire-permits>

If you need to use fire in the open air during the Fire Danger Period or on a day of Total Fire Ban you may require a permit.

There are two types of permits. Click on a box to find out more.

 <p>During the Fire Danger Period</p> <p>A permit valid for use during the declared Fire Danger Period but not on Total Fire Ban Days (this is called a Schedule 13 or Schedule 14 Permit).</p>	 <p>On days of Total Fire Ban</p> <p>A permit valid for days of Total Fire Ban only (this is called a Section 40 Permit)</p>
---	--

South Australia

<https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/bans-and-ratings/permits/>

Types of permits

There are two types of permits that can be issued by an Authorised Officer:

- **Schedule 9 Permit** - may be issued for fires or activities on days during the Fire Danger Season that are not Total Fire Ban days.
- **Schedule 10 Permit** - may be issued for fires or activities on days that are Total Fire Bans - these are intended for emergency use only.

To find your nearest Authorised Officer [contact your local council](#).

NSW

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/know-your-risk/Bush-fire-hazards-and-your-property/fire-permits>

Fire permits and the Bush Fire Danger Period

The statutory Bush Fire Danger Period runs from 1 October to 31 March, however these dates may vary due to local conditions. If you are planning to light a fire in the open during this time, you will need a Fire Permit.

[Click here to find out if a Fire Permit is required in your area.](#)

Depending on the type of fire, a permit may be required all year round or only during the Bush Fire Danger Period. For example, a fire permit is required at all times if a fire is likely to be dangerous to a building.

ACTIVITIES: Safe burning of on-farm waste

What To Do If Your Clothes Catch Fire

A person's clothes can catch on fire in a number of ways, usually by extended exposure to a heat source or by contact with a flame.

Prompt action will reduce the severity of any burn injury.



STOP

It is very important not to panic and run. Running fans the flames and increases the fire.



COVER

Heat rises so cover your face with your hands to protect the delicate eyes and skin on the face and to protect airways from the smoke.



DROP

Drop to the ground immediately.



ROLL

Roll backwards and forwards on the flame to smother the fire. By rolling on the flames you starve them of oxygen and put out the fire.

A bystander can assist by dousing the fire with water, or using a fire blanket, non-flammable mat, blanket or article of clothing to assist in smothering the fire.

N.B. A water fire extinguisher (all red body) is the only type of fire extinguisher which can be safely used in this situation. Do not use any other type of fire extinguisher.

Burns First Aid

Quickly remove any clothing and jewellery from the burned area. If the clothes are stuck to the skin, do not remove them.

Immediately treat the area with cool running water (e.g. from a cold tap) for 20 minutes. Only apply the water to the burned area. Keep the patient warm with a blanket or by holding the patient so that only the burned area is under the water and your body heat is keeping the rest of them warm.

After 20 minutes use cling wrap or a clean cloth to cover and protect the burnt area. Do not wrap the cling wrap tightly and do not use on faces. Use a wet cloth for face burns.

Do not use ice, creams, oil or other substances.

Seek medical attention for all children's burns. For adults, seek medical attention if the burn is larger than a 50 cent coin, or if it is on the face, hands, feet, joints or groin area.