

## Enquiries

Prior to lighting fires, a check should be made with your local fire warden, rural fire brigade or fire station to establish whether a fire can be lit in your area. Anyone who is unsure of the local laws regarding the lighting and use of fire in their area should contact their local government.

Before lighting any fire you should check if any notice, notification or fire ban applies for the area where the fire is to be lit. These are published on the Rural Fire Service website [www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au) and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service website [www.fire.qld.gov.au](http://www.fire.qld.gov.au) and in the media.

The Rural Fire Service website [www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au) has information on 'Using Fire Outdoors' where you will find information on a range of topics in connection with the use of fire and the process of applying for a Permit to Light Fire from your local fire warden.

Information and a range of brochures are available from your local Rural Operations area office who can be contacted on the numbers on the back of this brochure.

## Contact Us for further information

Barcaldine Area Office	Ph: 4651 1190
Bundaberg Area Office	Ph: 4153 3244
Caboolture Area Office	Ph: 5420 1333
Cairns Area Office	Ph: 4039 8240
Caloundra Area Office	Ph: 5420 7517
Charters Towers/ Cloncurry Area Office	Ph: 4787 8213
Emerald Area Office	Ph: 4982 0001
Innisfail Area Office	Ph: 4061 0650
Ipswich Area Office	Ph: 3381 7122
Mackay Area Office	Ph: 4965 6641
Maryborough Area Office	Ph: 4190 4839
Rockhampton Area Office	Ph: 4938 4736
Roma Area Office	Ph: 4622 2074
Toowoomba Area Office	Ph: 4616 1951
Townsville Area Office	Ph: 4796 9082

# Lighting Fires in Queensland

Information on fire permits  
and how to obtain them.



[www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au)



Queensland Government



Queensland Government

The *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990* is the principal legislation that deals with lighting fires in the open in Queensland. The Act provides a systematic approach to the authorised use and control of fire in the open and for fire prevention.

The *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990* makes it illegal to light a fire without a 'Permit to Light Fire' issued by a fire warden. Under nuisance provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* a local government may also have in place a local law restricting or prohibiting the lighting of a fire in part or all of the local government area.

## Obtaining a Permit to Light Fire

An application for a 'Permit to Light Fire' is made through your local fire warden. Contact details for fire wardens are available through the Fire Warden Finder on the Rural Fire Service website [www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au). An 'Application for a Permit to Light Fire' can also be downloaded from the website. Following receipt of your application the fire warden may impose conditions on a permit to reduce unwanted risk or nuisance to other people, property or to the environment. The fire warden may refuse to issue a permit if they believe that appropriate safety measures cannot be reasonably achieved.

A Notification issued under the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990*, does allow certain fires to be lit without the need to obtain a permit, except if the fires are not permitted under a local law or other legislation. If there is a local law in your local government area prohibiting the lighting of fires, a permit will not be issued by the fire warden unless you have obtained the written permission of the local government.

## Fire Danger Period

A Fire Danger Period can be declared by the Commissioner of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) during parts of the year when conditions make the control and management of fires difficult and communities are at increased risk of bushfire. During a Fire Danger Period there are some changes to the requirements for issue of a permit and to those fires that may be exempt. A declared Fire Danger Period is advised through local media and on the Rural Fire Service website [www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au)

## Fires that do not Require a Permit

Fires that are exempt from requiring a Permit to Light Fire are:

- Fires that are less than 2 metres in any direction.  
Note: These fires are not exempt during any Fire Danger Period and a permit must be obtained from a fire warden.
- Fires lit outdoors in a properly prepared fireplace for the purpose of cooking (e.g. BBQ and camp fires). In this instance it is the responsibility of the person lighting or maintaining the fire to ensure adequate precautions are taken to prevent the spread of fire.
- Certain fires used by primary producers and for industrial purposes.

Most local governments provide alternative methods (other than fire) for the disposal of vegetation and waste materials such as refuse collections or disposal of green waste at a council recycling centre. Contact your local government for more information.

## Breaches

Anyone found responsible for lighting fires without a permit where one was required, can be prosecuted. Prosecution can also occur if a person is found responsible for lighting a fire that breaches local law or the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

## Fire Emergencies

If there is a high fire danger in part or all of the State, the Commissioner QFRS may issue a Local Fire Ban restricting certain fires in all or part of the State.

When a Local Fire Ban is issued, no fires may be lit other than those specifically referred to in the Fire Ban Notice and in the circumstances described in the Fire Ban Notice.

The declaration of a State of Fire Emergency imposes similar or increased restrictions and prohibitions on lighting fires to a Local Fire Ban however, carries significantly increased penalties.

Local Fire Bans and a State of Fire Emergency are advised through local media, on the Rural Fire Service website at [www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au) and on the Fire Ban Information Line on **1800 020 440**.

