

Things to know about Open Air Burning

- ♦ Green and wet garden waste and leaves **cannot** be burnt – mulching is a good alternative.
- ♦ “Offensive materials” such as rubber, plastics, garden refuse, cardboard, newspaper, petrol and oils, paints or chemicals **cannot** be burnt.
- ♦ On-the-spot fines in excess of \$200 may be issued to persons not complying with this local law, or lighting a fire when a permit is required.
- ♦ An open air fire needs to be located 5 metres away from property boundaries and buildings.
- ♦ Fire to be cleared of any flammable material for a radius of 3 metres.
- ♦ Fire not to be lit on a windy day (wind speed is greater than 15kph).
- ♦ Fire to be supervised by an adult at all Times. Must not be left unattended.
- ♦ An appropriate water supply such as a working hose must be available.
- ♦ Neighbours need to be notified of an open air burn
- ♦ All open air burns to registered with CFA VICFIRE on 1800 668 511
- ♦ A fire lit for cooking or warmth needs to be in a barbeque or properly constructed fireplace. Refer to the CFA website or City of Greater Bendigo fact sheet for full specifications.

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Last update: 30 August 2018



Outside the declared Fire Danger Period residents may light a fire for:

- Warmth
- Cooking
- To burn dry fuel (timber and sticks) for fuel reduction to prepare your property for the fire season.

* A permit is not required for fires lit for cooking or warmth providing stringent conditions are met– refer to the cooking and warmth fire fact sheet.

The City regulates open air burning across the municipality to:

- prevent fires from becoming out of control
- minimise adverse impacts of smoke
- prevent unnecessary call outs to CFA Brigades

The following conditions apply to open air burning

The Open Air Burning provisions of the Local Law only applies outside the declared fire danger period

- On properties less than 1 hectare in size, a written permit is always required to light an open air fire
- On properties 1 hectare in size or larger, a permit is required only when the fire size is 4 metres wide x 4 metres high x 3 metres high, or larger (keep burn piles smaller and a permit is not required)
- All open air burns regardless of size of land or if a permit is required, must be registered with **ViCFIRE** by calling **1800 668 511** to avoid the CFA being activated to attend your property. **Must also notify all adjoining neighbours including those across the road.**
- Only dry solid fuel can be burnt in an open air fire
- Permits are free of charge
- Incinerators **cannot** be used at any time
- No** lighting fires on Total Fire Ban days
- No** lighting fires during the Declared Fire Danger Period.
- A person who lights a fire without a permit **MUST** extinguish the fire immediately when directed to do so by the City of Greater Bendigo, CFA or Police

Any further information contact
Environmental Health & Local Laws
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