

Burning Off in Murrindindi Shire



Fire Restrictions and Burning Off

Council's Fire Restriction Period commenced on **Saturday the 15th of October 2016**. From this date until the commencement of CFA's declared Fire Danger Period, a permit will be required for all fires (excluding small fires in the "Farm Zone").

Anyone in a Farm Zone (generally outside of town limits) can burn any vegetation less than 75mm in diameter in a fire not more than 1 metre wide and 1 metre high without a permit.

Anyone wishing to burn vegetation in excess of these requirements or within a residential area will require a permit from the Local Laws Unit.

A burning permit requires the applicant to ensure:

- They have the means to extinguish the fire
- An adult person is present at all times
- That smoke does not cause a nuisance
- After the burn, all ashes, coals and unburnt material must be spread
- Any windrow or stump fire must be extinguished and not allowed to burn overnight.

How do obtain a permit?

To obtain a permit you can contact the Local Laws Department on 5772 0376. There is no cost for a permit.

How Long Does My Permit Last?

Permits obtained from Local Laws are only valid until the CFA's declared Fire Danger Period commences (date yet to be confirmed).

If you have any questions regarding burning please call the Local Laws Department.

Register Your Burn Off

Even if you have obtained a permit from Council, all burn-offs should be registered with ESTA on 1800 668 511 or via email: burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au

Please provide the following information about your burn-off when registering:

- Location
- Date and expected start and finish times
- Estimated size
- What you intend to burn.

Unregistered burn-offs can cause brigades to be called out unnecessarily.

Before Burning Off

- Check and follow local regulations or laws set down by CFA or your local council
- Notify neighbours at least two hours before starting the burn
- Notify the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) on 1800 668 511
- Check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and a few days afterwards
- Check the fuel moisture conditions – if fuel is too damp it may cause a smoke nuisance potentially requiring the fire to be extinguished
- Establish a fire break of no less than three metres cleared of all flammable material
- Make sure there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively.

Keep Your Burn Off Safe and Legal

- Never leave it unattended
- Monitor weather conditions
- Have sufficient equipment and water to stop the fire spreading
- Check fire restrictions in your area

Message from Forest Fire Management Victoria

Who is Forest Fire Management Victoria?

Forest Fire Management Victoria crews include staff from Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria, VicForests and Melbourne Water. The name also applies to staff working in incident management teams during emergencies.

Crews can be identified by their distinctive green overalls and work alongside the Country Fire Authority (CFA), other emergency services and local communities.

What is *Safer Together*?

Safer Together is Victoria's approach to reducing the risk of bushfire and improving the way we deliver planned burning throughout Victoria.

Land and fire agencies will work together to plan and deliver bushfire management activities across public and private land, such as Murrindindi Shire Council's free green waste disposal initiative and private burning amnesty period.

Safer Together combines stronger community and stakeholder partnerships with the latest science and information to more effectively target our actions to reduce bushfire risk where it matters most.

Everyone has a role to play in managing and understanding bushfire risk to protect what we care about most – people, property and the environment.

For more information, visit www.delwp.vic.gov.au/safer-together

Spring planned burning

Forest Fire Management Victoria manages fuel loads on public land through planned burning, creating and clearing fuel breaks, mowing and slashing.

It is currently too wet in forests and parks in the Murrindindi District for us to carry out nominated spring planned burns.

This necessary work, done under carefully managed conditions, greatly reduces the impact of bushfires by reducing available fuel loads.

Forest Fire Management Victoria will be working to carry these out safely.

There is a number of ways you can find out when and where planned burns are happening near you.

Search 'Forest Fire Management Victoria' to get the most up-to-date planned burns schedule and to sign-up for the Planned Burns Notification System (PBNS).

This is an opt-in system which will send you an SMS or email message prior to a burn being carried out, and when it is in progress. From November, the new VicEmergency App will be available for download.

If you see smoke and want to know if it is a planned burn or a fire, you can call 1800 240 667.

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