



TOTAL FIRE BAN

Rules Explained: What You Can & Can't Do in Australia

■ WHAT IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN?

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared on days of extreme fire danger. All open-air fires are prohibited and fire-risk activities are banned. TFBs are declared by the relevant state fire authority – violations can result in heavy fines or criminal charges.

X BANNED ACTIVITIES

Prohibited on Total Fire Ban days

- X Open-air burning & campfires
- X Burning off grass, stubble or vegetation
- X Angle grinding, welding or cutting metal outdoors
- X Harvesting or mowing dry crops/grass
- X Using fireworks or explosives outdoors
- X Operating machinery that may cause sparks
- X Using solid-fuel BBQs or fire pits
- X Operating harvesting equipment in paddocks
- X Lighting incinerators or burning rubbish
- X Overhead electric fencing repairs outdoors

✓ STILL PERMITTED

Allowed with care on Total Fire Ban days

- ✓ Gas/electric BBQs (with ember guard)
- ✓ Indoor wood heaters already alight
- ✓ Cooking with gas stoves indoors
- ✓ Driving on fire trails (check local rules)
- ✓ Watering gardens with hoses
- ✓ Non-spark gardening (hand tools only)
- ✓ Approved beehive smokers (check state)
- ✓ Indoor construction work only
- ✓ Mowing green/wet grass only
- ✓ Emergency essential services only

■ PENALTIES FOR BREACHING A TOTAL FIRE BAN

Fines range from **\$5,500 (NSW)** to **\$26,250 (VIC)** for individuals. Corporations face up to **\$130,000**. Causing a fire can lead to **criminal prosecution, imprisonment** and liability for **suppression costs**. Each state sets its own penalty schedule — always check your state authority.

FIRE DANGER RATING SCALE



▲ TFB may be declared from SEVERE

■ AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY CONTACTS

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|--|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| ALL STATES Emergency (Police/Fire/Ambulance) | 000 | SA SA Country Fire Service (CFS) | 1300 362 361 |
| ALL STATES Non-Emergency Fire Info Line | 1800 679 737 | WA DFES – Fire & Emergency Services | 13 33 37 |
| NSW NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) | 1800 679 737 | TAS Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) | 1800 000 699 |
| VIC Country Fire Authority (CFA) | 1800 240 667 | ACT ACT Emergency Services (ESA) | (02) 6207 8111 |
| VIC Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) | 1300 369 003 | NT NT Fire & Rescue Service | 1800 198 016 |
| QLD Queensland Fire Dept (QFD) | 13 74 68 | NATIONAL Lifeline (Crisis Support) | 13 11 14 |

Check your state fire authority website daily on high-risk days