

## 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 3 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 be registered online with ESTA at <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/>
- ♦ 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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### 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 long 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 online with **ESTA** at <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/> 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**  
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