



**Better air quality for all of us**

*Know South Australia's  
Laws for Burning  
in the Open*



**If you burn without a required permit you will be breaking the law and will be fined \$300, under section 34 of the Environment Protection Act 1993, by Council compliance staff or South Australia Police.**

**Contact your local council if**

- ✓ You require a permit
- ✓ You need to use a fire in the open during the fire danger season or on a day of Total Fire Ban.
- ✓ You are unsure whether you need a permit or have any questions regarding burning in the open.

Your council will continue to manage burning in your area and determine the approach that is best for your community.

**For a complete copy of EPA's Air Quality Policy, contact:**

**Environment Protection Authority**

www.epa.sa.gov.au  
(08) 8204 2004  
(country): 1800 623 445  
Twitter: SA\_EPA



**Keep South Australia's air healthy and community safe by burning responsibly**

**Why burning in the open is regulated**

Burning in the open is a common practice to reduce the risk of bushfires, manage agricultural land and to dispose of agricultural and forestry wastes. Open fires are also used to cook food, prepare beverages, and as part of recreational activities (ie campfires).

While activities such as burn offs for bushfire reduction are absolutely necessary, smoke from these activities can impact on human health and the environment, and can also cause nuisance. Wood smoke from burning in the open also contributes to poor air quality in South Australia.



New provisions in the *Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016* aim to minimise smoke impacts in populated areas by providing stronger controls on burning in built-up areas where more people are exposed, and apply year-round. These new laws operate alongside existing laws that apply during the Fire Danger Season under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005.

**If you live INSIDE metropolitan Adelaide and townships you can only burn when it is for:**

- ✓ preparation of food or beverages where the size of the fire and fuel are appropriate for that purpose
- ✓ heating an outdoor area using a brazier, chiminea or fire pit – charcoal only
- ✓ fire prevention or control (vegetation) – requires council approval (permit or notice)
- ✓ disposal of agricultural or forestry waste (vegetation) – requires council approval (permit or notice)
- ✓ other – requires council approval (permit or notice)

Note: in many councils, permits will not be issued.

**If you live OUTSIDE metropolitan Adelaide and OUTSIDE townships, you can:**

- ✓ Use a fire for the preparation of food and beverages
- ✓ Use a brazier, chiminea or fire pit for outdoor domestic heating
- ✓ Campfire
- ✓ Burn agricultural or forestry waste (vegetation) – must comply with relevant CFS Code of Practice
- ✓ Burn off for bushfire hazard reduction (vegetation) – must comply with relevant CFS Code of Practice

**If you need to use fire in the open air during the Fire Danger Period or on a day of Total Fire Ban you may require a separate permit under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005.** Where a permit is issued under that Act the *Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016* does not apply.

**If you are unsure, please check with you local council before you burn to determine if you are able to burn or require a permit to burn. If you do need a permit, applying for one is easy.**

**Map showing the Adelaide Metropolitan area**



**The Air Quality Policy does not apply to burning undertaken within the requirements of the following Acts:**

- Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005
- Crown Land Management Act 2009
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972
- Forestry Act 1950
- Wilderness Protection Act 1992
- Native Vegetation Act 1991