



# TOTAL FIRE BANS

## WHAT ARE THE RULES?

### IN A TOTAL FIRE BAN:

- X** no fire may be lit in the open
- X** all fire permits are suspended. This includes incinerators, barbecues (BBQ) and smokers which burn solid fuel, e.g. wood, charcoal or heat beads
- X** no general purpose welding, grinding, soldering or gas cutting can be done in the open without an exemption issued by the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

### WHEN IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN ANNOUNCED?

During the Bush Fire Danger Period, the decision to issue a Total Fire Ban is usually made in the afternoon for the following day.

A Total Fire Ban may be issued on the actual day if weather conditions get worse.

A Total Fire Ban usually starts at midnight and lasts for 24 hours.

### TO FIND OUT WHERE TOTAL FIRE BANS HAVE BEEN DECLARED:

- visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)
- check the weather forecast at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)
- call the Bush Fire Information Line on 1800 679 737
- monitor weather reports on the radio, television and social media.



## CAN YOU STILL HAVE A BBQ?

You may use a gas or electric BBQ, but only if:

- ✓ it is on a residential property within 20 metres of the house
- ✓ it is in a designated picnic area and the BBQ is approved by Council, National Parks or State Forests
- ✓ it is always attended by a responsible adult
- ✓ the ground within two metres of the BBQ is cleared of all materials which could burn
- ✓ you have an immediate and continuous supply of water available.

## ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS DURING A TOTAL FIRE BAN?

A range of activities may be exempt such as:

- emergency infrastructure work
- bee hive smokers
- mining operations
- sugar cane harvesting
- fireworks or ceremonial fires
- hot air balloons.

The NSW RFS Commissioner is responsible for exemptions to Total Fire Bans. These exemptions are detailed on the [NSW RFS website](#) each time a Total Fire Ban is declared.



**LIGHTING A FIRE ON A TOTAL FIRE BAN DAY  
CAN RESULT IN FINES OF UP TO \$132,000  
AND/OR 14 YEARS IMPRISONMENT.**

For more information on what you can do to prepare for bush fire this season:



**NSW Rural Fire Service  
Website**

[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)



**Your nearest NSW RFS  
Fire Control Centre:**



**Bush Fire Information Line**  
1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

