

What you can and can't do on a Total Fire Ban day

What is a Total Fire Ban?

We declare a Total Fire Ban on a day when a fire is most likely to spread rapidly (because of extreme fire weather) or if there are already widespread fires and we don't have the resources to fight more. The lighting of open-air fires or any other activity in the open air that is likely to cause a fire is banned.

Total Fire Bans affect everyone

Every Western Australian is affected including farmers, campers, construction workers and residents in both urban and rural areas. So, make sure you carefully read this document, and if you need more information or advice call the TFB Hotline on **1800 709 355**.

You will be fined if you ignore a Total Fire Ban

If you ignore a Total Fire Ban, you will get a \$1,000 on-the-spot fine. And if it's a serious breach, you could get up to a \$25,000 fine and/or be jailed for 12 months.



Don't put people's lives
and properties in danger.



Anyone who lives in WA

Do not throw a burning cigarette, cigar or match into an area that may catch alight, including from a vehicle.

In open-air, you cannot:

- Light, maintain or use a fire (even when camping)
- Burn leaves, garden waste or grass cuttings
- Use an incinerator
- Grind, weld, solder, gas cut or use any other type of 'hot works'
- Use fireworks
- Operate a hot-air balloon
- Fire up a BBQ that uses solid fuel (see BBQ section for more)
- Use an outdoor wood-fired pizza oven or stove

Some industries and activities can be given an exemption, but you will need to show that you have a proper fire plan in place. If you want more information or to apply for an exemption, visit dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans

In any area where there is bush, crops, pasture and stubble, you cannot use:

- A car
- A motorbike
- A motocross bike
- A quad bike
- A dune buggy

You can use any of the above vehicles for agricultural purposes if the local government hasn't declared a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban and if it's on a road, track or in an area that has been sufficiently cleared of flammable material.

In a shed with one or more open sides, you cannot use:

- An angle grinder
- Power tools
- Welder

You can use these tools inside your shed if it is fully enclosed on all sides (i.e. has a door, four walls and a roof), so sparks don't blow outside.

In any area where there is bush, crops, pasture and stubble, you cannot use:

- A chainsaw or lawn mower
- A plant trimmer or grass trimmer
- A generator
- Bobcats, excavators, bulldozers (or any similar machines)

If you are in an area that is not listed above, it is your responsibility to ensure your machinery or tools do not start a fire. If it's possible to postpone your plans, please do, as the risk of starting a fire is extremely high.

Undercover areas such as patios, pergolas and huts that are open or partially open, are considered to be open-air.



Barbecuing or cooking outdoors

You cannot use any BBQ or cooker (including Webers) that requires solid fuel:


- Wood
- Charcoal
- Heat beads

You can use a gas or electric BBQ or cooker, if:

- It's a permanent BBQ in a public picnic area
- You use it in a public space within the sign posted BBQ area
- It's at or in your home

But, only if:

- It has an enclosed flame
- You clear all material around it, within a 5m radius, that can burn
- It is always attended by a responsible adult
- An immediate and continuous supply of water is nearby, e.g. a garden hose
- You ensure no hot material escapes the area



Short green grass less than 5cm in height and reticulated gardens are not considered to be flammable.

Looking after your farm

The immediate welfare of your animals, such as urgent watering and feeding, has an automatic exemption.



If you're a farmer, you can:

- Harvest your crop
- Feed or water your stock in a paddock
- Operate or move an aeroplane or helicopter

This is assuming that a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has not been declared by your local government. You must also check with your local government if you need any fire suppression equipment.

If you conduct any of the above activities, you must ensure:

- Your vehicle is mechanically sound
- The exhaust system is in good condition (free of gas leaks and/or has a well-maintained spark arrester)
- That all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent a bushfire starting

Aeroplanes and helicopters must also have:

- A firebreak around the area of the landing ground
- At least 150L of water in a suitable container and a fire extinguisher at the landing site

Explosives

If you want to use blasting equipment or explosives, you need to contact your local Chief Bushfire Control Officer or your nearest DFES office.

Total Fire Ban and a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban

If both a Total Fire Ban and a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban are in place, you cannot use a vehicle, equipment or machinery that's powered by an internal combustion engine on land covered by bush, crop, pasture or stubble.

We can cancel bans if weather conditions improve. If you think that might be the case, just check [emergency.wa.gov.au](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

Check if there's a Total Fire Ban in place today by:

- Visiting the Emergency WA website ([emergency.wa.gov.au](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au))
- Calling 13 DFES (133 337)
- Calling the TFB Hotline **1800 709 355**
- Following DFES on Twitter
- Following DFES on Facebook
- Listening to ABC local radio and other media outlets
- Looking out for Main Roads WA Variable Message Signs
- Looking for local government roadside Fire Danger Rating signs

For more information on Total Fire Bans, visit [dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans](https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans)

