

TOTAL FIRE BAN EXCEPTIONS

– BUSH FIRES REGULATIONS 1954 (regulations 24E-24J)

Hot Work

Prescribed activity and conditions

This information is to assist persons who would otherwise require an exemption under section 22C of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to carry out hot work in the open air during a total fire ban (TFB).



What conditions do I need to comply with to carry out hot work during a TFB?

During a total fire ban, hot work (see definition) may ONLY be carried out:

- in the course of trade or commerce; or
- by (or on behalf of) a public authority,

AND ONLY WHEN:

- the fire danger rating is not Catastrophic (unless urgent work by an essential service - see definition next page) and
- all of the following conditions are complied with, and
- the hot work does NOT include rail grinding (see definition next page)

- ✓ Notification is provided to DFES and the relevant local government between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the hot works commencing using the online notification form on the DFES website.
- ✓ If the hot work is to be conducted within 3 km of land managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Parks and Wildlife Service, then notification to the respective local District or Regional Duty Officer of the Parks and Wildlife Service must be provided between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the hot work.
- ✓ Fire-resistant barriers of a height sufficient to prevent the escape of hot particles or sparks must be placed around the hot work.
- ✓ The ground within a 10 m radius of the hot work must be clear of inflammable material and damped down with water where required.
- ✓ The work site must meet the requirements of any fire break notice (see definition) applicable to the work site.

- ✓ There must be at least two approved fire extinguishers (see definition) in proper working order located in close proximity to the hot work.
- ✓ If the hot work is carried out within 30 m of any bush, crop, pasture, stubble or grassland, then the amount of firefighting water set out in the table below must be provided on the work site, in a water tank(s) mounted to an approved firefighting vehicle(s) (see definition next page):

Fire danger forecast for the work site	Volume of firefighting water required (litres)
Low/Moderate	500L
High	1000L
Very High	1500L
Severe	2000L
Extreme	2500L

- ✓ All firefighting vehicles must be on the work site at all times while the hot work is being carried out.
- ✓ If there is no reticulated water supply available within 1 km of the work site, there must be a bulk water supply tanker carrying at least 5000L of additional water located on the site at all times while the hot work is being carried out, and for at least 30 minutes after the hot work is complete.
- ✓ At all times when the hot work is being carried out, there must be at least one fire detection officer (see definition next page) in close proximity to the hot work, dedicated solely to detecting and suppressing any fire caused by the hot work.
- ✓ For at least 30 minutes after the hot work activity is complete, the fire detection officer and at least one other able-bodied person must remain on the site with the approved firefighting vehicle(s), and they must not leave until they are satisfied there is no fire or anything likely to cause a fire on the site.

Definitions

Hot work means the operation in the open air of:

- welding apparatus of any kind; or
 - power operated abrasive cutting discs of any kind.
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Fire break notice means a notice issued by the relevant local government under section 33(1) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Approved fire extinguisher for an activity means a fire extinguisher suitable to extinguish a fire likely to occur in relation to the activity; and has a capacity of at least 9 kg or 9 L; and complies with the current Australian Standards.

Essential Service means any of the following:

- a. water supply, sewerage or drainage services;
 - b. electricity or gas services;
 - c. telecommunications services;
 - d. public transport services;
 - e. rubbish collection or disposal services.
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Urgent works, in relation to the provision of an essential service, means repairs or maintenance necessary for the continued provision, or restoration, of the service

Rail grinding means hot work involving the grinding of tracks for railways for the purpose of constructing, maintaining or repairing the tracks.

Approved firefighting vehicle means a vehicle that:

- has one or more water storage tanks mounted upon it; and
 - is located in close proximity to the hot work; and
 - is capable of traversing the site; and
 - is equipped with:
 - at least 20 m of 19 mm diameter fire hose fitted with an adjustable nozzle in proper working order, having a full spray pattern capable of projecting a 6 m jet of water; and
 - a pump in proper working order that is capable of delivering a minimum of 120 L of water per minute at 700 kPa through the hose.
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Fire detection officer means an able-bodied person, other than the person carrying out the hot work, who is trained in:

- the operation of approved fire extinguishers; and
 - the operation of the approved firefighting vehicle located on the site (if required); and
 - the suppression and fighting of bush fire (if within 30m vegetation).
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Ways to keep informed of a TFB:

A TFB is declared the evening before it is to take effect. You can check after 6.00pm to see if a TFB has been declared for the following day.

- Call TFB hotline 1800 709 355
- Visit <https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au>
- Call 13 DFES (133 337)
- Listen to ABC local radio and other media outlets
- Check roadside Fire Danger Rating signs
- Follow DFES on Facebook or Twitter
- Subscribe to RSS at the following link to receive email notifications
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Follow the steps!

Check	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm if it's a TFB• DFES Total Fire Ban + www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#totalfirebans• Phone: TFB hotline 1800 709 355
Notify	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notify DFES and the relevant local government by completing the DFES online notification form between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the activity commencing.• Notify Parks and Wildlife Service (P&W) between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the activity commencing where the activity is occurring within 3 kms of land managed by P&W.
Proceed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject to prescribed activity conditions, proceed with the activity as required.

Can anyone carry out this activity during a TFB?

No – the prescribed activity can only be carried out in the course of trade or commerce, or by (or on behalf of) a public authority. This activity is NOT allowed to be carried out during a TFB by the general public. For more information on restrictions during a TFB, please refer to the DFES website www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans

Penalties for non-compliance with activity conditions:

Stakeholders who do not comply with the conditions within the Regulations may receive an infringement of \$1,000, or upon conviction receive a penalty of \$25,000 and/or be jailed for 12 months.

Who should I contact if I need further information?

Please call the Total Fire Ban Hotline (available 24/7) on 1800 709 355 or email exemptions@dfes.wa.gov.au during business hours.

dfes.wa.gov.au



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